

15/10/96

Tuesday October 22 1996

Also Dubai D 8 50
Alaska L 200
Australia AG 30
Bahamas B 0.85
Belgium BF 15
Bolivia L 340
Canada C 1.25
Czechia CZ 1.00
Denmark DK 15
Ecuador EC 1.00
Egypt EG 6.00
France FF 10
Germany GM 3.50
Greece G 4.00
Hong Kong HK 25
Hungary H 250
India IN 160
Indonesia I 1.50
Italy IT 3.00
Japan J 1.25
Korea KH 150
Kuwait K 0.50
Lithuania LT 3000
Luxembourg LF 55
Malaysia M 270
Mexico MX 1.40
Morocco D 25
Netherlands G 4.00
New Zealand NZ 18
Norway N 1.00
Oman O 1.00
Pakistan P 70
Peru PE 1.00
Portugal P 240
Qatar Q 1.00
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Thailand TH 1.50
Turkey TR 10.00
USA US 2.75

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Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

John Richardson's new biography

Picasso the pacifist

G2 pages 10/11

So just who is Caprice Bourret?

Blonde ambition

G2 pages 8/9

Education

The rogue operators selling British degrees overseas

G2 pages 10/11

Murdered headteacher's widow attracts widespread support for law and order and education measures to make good citizens of young

Moral crusade gathers pace

Parties sign up to manifesto of civic values

Ewen MacAskill and John Carvel

THE Conservatives, Labour and Liberal Democrats began a stampede yesterday to claim they were closest to the moral agenda for the regeneration of Britain set out by the widow of Philip Lawrence, the murdered headteacher. On a day which saw politics, morality and religion mixing unhappily together, the parties vied with one another to lead Frances Lawrence's national movement to renew civic values among Britain's young. The Conservatives insisted that while Labour spoke about filling the moral vacuum, the Government was putting into place education and law and order measures to meet her concerns. Many of them will be central to tomorrow's Queen's Speech, a Central Office spokesman said. Labour claimed Tony Blair had been espousing many of the views on civic regeneration well before he became leader, and that many of Mrs Lawrence's education plans had been included in a document produced by the shadow education secretary, David Blunkett, last December. In her 'manifesto' Mrs Lawrence called for: A nationwide movement to banish violence and encourage civic values; A ban on the sale of combat knives; New primary school courses in good citizenship; A higher status in society for teachers and the police; Governments to end neutrality on the concept of the family; Children to be involved in family life, not leading separate lives within the home; An emphasis in teaching on effort, earnestness and excellence. Differences emerged on the issue of knives. Labour is committed to a ban on knives but the Conservatives said such a ban was impossible as it would affect kitchen knives and Stanley knives. Mrs Lawrence said simply: 'Today is a time for other

people to speak. I have nothing further to say at the moment.' Gillian Shephard, Education Secretary, denied that public opinion was driving the politicians into action. Her Labour shadow, David Blunkett, said: 'Our party's intention is to build on the examples of excellence in personal and social education to ensure that the teaching of citizenship is central to the development of young people from the earliest appropriate moment.' Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman Alex Carlile warned against being patronising to young people and his colleague Charles Kennedy warned that the action taken by Mrs Lawrence and the Dunblane parents was a comment on the government of the day. But the chorus of support from the politicians provoked scepticism from the leader of Britain's second largest teaching union. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said teachers wanted urgent action to crack down on indiscipline in schools instead of worthy moralising from political leaders. 'Teachers have had enough of endless discussions with parents over violent and disruptive youngsters,' he said. 'They would all support Mrs Lawrence's basic message, but they could not wait for a political campaign for restoring social values to bear fruit. Schools will not be able to begin to turn the situation around unless and until they convey a much greater sense of urgency by excluding violent, disruptive youngsters much more quickly.' Doug McAvoey, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said Mrs Lawrence's campaign would be welcomed by teachers and parents who had never believed Mrs Thatcher's edict that 'society does not exist.'



Frances Lawrence at her London home yesterday, as politicians vied to support her 'manifesto' PHOTOGRAPH: SHAWN BALDWIN

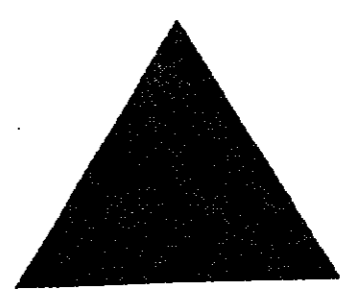
Frances Lawrence's manifesto faces a harsh test-bed at The Ridings school on the Ovenden estate in Halifax. Headteacher Karen Stansfield takes early retirement in December, blaming stress; teachers feel that one in 10 of the 600 pupils are such a threat that they should be excluded. Staff ballot later this month on a strike if there is no crackdown; governors are holding emergency talks with Calderdale education authority. Brian Garvey, Halifax teacher and executive member of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers details the realities his colleagues face.

FROM the start of the school day, every day, teachers at the Ridings face disruption from a group of pupils, a minority but now a considerable number. They get verbal abuse - they are regularly told where to go in no uncertain terms. They get physical abuse - they have been stoned and punched. The police have been called in twice in the last week. 'The pupils involved regularly refuse to do work. What do you do when that happens? Put them in detention?' They say: well, I'm not coming to do detention. You write to the parents (and the vast majority of parents are very supportive). Their parents say: No, that's right. They're not coming in to do detention. 'The problem is simply that a small number of disruptive pupils have been allowed to stay in school for too long. They consistently set a bad example to the others, most of whom only want to behave and to get on with their schooling. These ones show that you can tangle with staff and get away with it, and they draw in others who would never normally misbehave. Verbal abuse from them is an everyday thing and physical abuse is getting commoner. 'Last week, stones were thrown at a teacher (which has happened before). Another was punched on the

arms and chest. And a female member of staff had her bottom pinched by a pupil. That may sound like the sort of thing people laugh at, but here it is sexual assault. 'The school consistently does its best to try to sort things out. It has adopted a 'Discipline for Learning' system, with close supervision of pupils at lunchtimes, a lot of effort from staff, the use of detention and encouragement through merit points and other rewards. But this group just hasn't responded to that at all. If they had been taken out of the school in time, we wouldn't have come to this. 'Why do they even bother to come to school? I think it's almost a case of them turning up to have what they think is fun. 'Staff have meanwhile lost almost all the sanctions they used to have, through the Government's steady withdrawal of them over the last 17 years. Lessons the pupils might be expected to enjoy, like games or PE, are no better. 'The Ridings suffers from a lack of effective boundaries and both truants and members of the public can cross the playing fields. Again, staff have had verbal abuse from members of the public when they are trying to take games. 'The situation got worse when the school started taking in pupils from Mixen-



Peace, love, flowers.



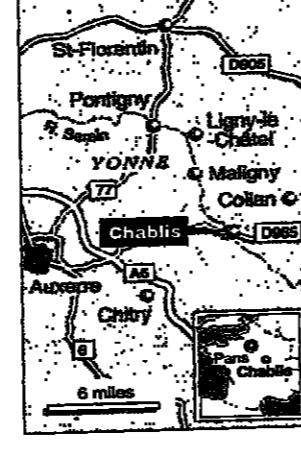
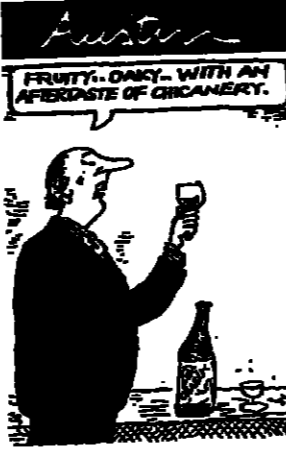
Beer.

Bitter taste lingers as growers squeeze last drop from Chablis

Paul Webster in Chablis

THE annual Burgundy miracle of the multiplying Chablis is about to take place: 20 times more wine than a quarter of a century ago is fermenting in barrels and vats, giving rise to a whispering campaign accusing growers of overplanting. Britain, the biggest importer, spends about \$15 million a year on its favourite dry white, but the ever-expanding crop has raised questions about whether it all merits the Chablis label. Demand owes much to Britain's wine bar cult where the drink is often regarded as an outward sign of Yuppie achievement equivalent to the mobile phone. After a stute promotion over 20 years, Britain takes 27 per cent of Chablis's exports and Ger-

many and Japan are following that example. But greater pressures for bigger output have come from French hypermarkets, whose autumn Foire des Vins have forced growers to squeeze vineyards beyond traditional limits. Rival growers are suspicious that Chablis, at the northern end of Burgundy, is northern corners to meet the demand. While production elsewhere in Bourgogne has dropped because of European Union restrictions and strict quality controls, the Yonne department around Chablis continues to set records. In the mid-1970s, when dairy farming dominated, there were only 1,750 acres of grapes. Now vineyards cover 12,500 acres and output has risen twenty-fold to about 30 million bottles a year. Jean-Jacques Vincent, who



grows Pouilly-Fuissé near Mâcon, expressed fears of growers in other regions that the whole of Burgundy might suffer from the suspicion that

Chablis, the dominant white Bourgogne, was being grown in unsuitable areas. Other critics said that Chablis's output, which jumped 26 per cent

in 1995, would be at least equalled this year, hinting that dubious practices were boosting production. Stephane Corazza, a leading Paris merchant, is advising customers to stay away from all popular Burgundy whites because he believes that too many growers, in wine far from demand, Tim Johnson, a British buyer based in Paris, said a debate had been avoided because French journalists shied away from criticising domestic wines. 'The journalists are so badly paid that trips to vineyards and the hospitality that goes with them are like a stipend,' he said. Officials in Chablis, a town of 2,600 people, shrugged off criticisms about expansion, saying ambitions were modest compared to the 19th century when nearly 100,000

acres produced plonk for Paris's working classes. Two growers' unions, or syndicates, pursued opposing policies. William Fèvre led campaigns to restrict the Chablis label but lost court appeals. His rival, Jean Durup, lobbied to spread the Chablis designation to fill empty ground around 20 villages. Mr Fèvre gave up his campaign two years ago but still believes that Chablis is losing credibility, particularly as new demands have been made to extend growing surfaces and upgrade downmarket Petit Chablis to Chablis status. 'We're heading towards a situation where you won't distinguish one crop from another,' he said. 'Because we didn't respect historical boundaries, the reputation of our premiers crus has already been severely hit.'

News
The Government has announced that it will...
The Government has announced that it will...

World News
Belgium is to reform its judicial system in the wake of massive demonstrations prompted by the paedophile scandal.

Finance
The Government has announced that it will...
The Government has announced that it will...

Sport
Wayne Rooney has won the race to become the new National Stadium to be funded with £200 million of lottery money.

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9 770261 307323

Advertisement for Beck's beer featuring a glass of beer and the text 'BEST SELLING PREMIUM CASK ALE SINCE 1777'.

Sketch

Cities bid to clean up with US import



Mark Tran

THE porn shops in New York's Times Square have been turned down to make way for the Virgin Records megastore, the renovated Disney theatres and new corporate towers occupied by Morgan Stanley, the investment bank, and Bertelsmann, the German media giant.

Times Square can undergo such a dramatic facelift, why cannot Britain and Soho — recently declared a disaster area by Trevor Nunn. It is a question being posed by the burghers from Bristol to Birmingham as well as London, facing a squeeze on the public purse.

The clean-up in Times Square can be gauged by that most telling economic indicator — the porn shop count. There used to be more than 140 porn outlets in the area, ranging from strip joints to dirty magazine shops. By the end of the week, eight at most will exist.

A British contingent including local government experts from Labour and the Conservatives toured Times Square yesterday to see the impressive results for themselves. Several London borough councils, including Camden, the City, Westminster and

Croydon, have expressed interest in setting up their own BIDs. The Confederation of British Industry is also interested, which bodes well as businesses will have to play the leading role.

"Soho will tackle the problems that cities and local authorities have failed to deal with," said Tony Travers, co-author with Jeroen Weimar of a study on BIDs in New York and their applicability for Britain. "They are consistent with the spirit of public and private sector co-operation" at a time of increasing pressure on public expenditure.

The study cites several candidates for BIDs in London, ranging from Soho and Piccadilly Circus to Brickton and Hatfield. In the US businesses band together to form a legal entity entitled to levy a rate on commercial property owners within a specific area to provide a range of services such as cleaning up graffiti and litter, promoting the area and providing security.

The Times Square BID, initiated by the New York Times, has transformed what was once a sleazy and unsafe district into one of the prime commercial sites in New York. Gretchen Dykstra, the fast-talking president of the Times Square BID, has some advice for prospective BIDs in Britain. They have to see themselves as part of the fabric of the city and not as an oasis.

Business owners, she said, had to deal honestly with the issue of "displacement" — pushing crime and homelessness to adjacent areas. Parliamentary approval would be needed in Britain and money raised by the BIDs — an involuntary tax — would count towards the public sector borrowing requirement.

First night

A long-winded walk to freedom

Lyn Gardner

A Doll's House Birmingham Rep

RUNNING at over three hours, Irina Brown's production makes up for in detail what it lacks in momentum. If anything, it is too carefully thought out: from the heavy-handed symbolism of the dolls entombed in a Victorian glass dome to the flight of steps that makes Nora's final departure a very long walk to freedom.

Paul Andrews's bold, split-level, black and white set is the most radical thing about a classically feminist interpretation, dispensing with the traditional Victorian sugar house in favour of a gleaming Legoland basement furnished with baby, mama and papsalized lime green chairs looking as if Goldilocks may drop by any minute.

Goldilocks would have plenty in common with Geraldine Somerville's Nora, a schoolgirl playing at being a wife in a powder-blue dress and button boots. This is a doll-child who lives only in a fantasy world.

Nora's dress falling off her shoulders, he almost rapes her, only interrupted by the arrival of Dr Rank. Nora comes on to Rank like a Lolita practising her charms, the abused child flaunting her premature sexuality.

In the circumstances, Nora's transformation from child to woman has all the more impact, her strength and certainty a stark contrast to Torvald's pitiful bewilderment. This is a Doll's House in which the tables are well and truly turned. Torvald is left like an abandoned child looking up at his wife.

This is all classily handled, particularly by Somerville, an actress of real presence and magnetism who has the happy knack of being able to pass for both 13 and 30, and McRae, whose clipped Scottish tones and tight lips suggest a man who is trying to beat the passion out of himself to live as the "irreproachable" husband, father and citizen that he believes he must become. But Brown's production, which on occasion appears to be operating in real time, spends such an age setting up the exposition and situation that by the time you get to what George Bernard Shaw called "the discussion" in the final act, you have all but lost patience. Nora's slam of the door echoes defiantly down the centuries just as it should. You only wish that she could have got to the door just a little bit quicker.

Bishops back minimum wage and union membership but insist they do not endorse any political party

Labour claims Catholic vote

Sarah Boseley

THE Christian Socialist Movement, which boasts Tony Blair and a third of the shadow cabinet as members, claimed the Catholic vote for Labour yesterday, following the publication of a statement of issues that concern the Church in the run-up to the election.

The document, launched by Cardinal Basil Hume, calls for Catholic voters to examine the political parties' commitment to "the common good".

It endorses union membership and condemns laissez-faire capitalism and poverty. It controversially states that it would not object to a national minimum wage if employers will not voluntarily pay a living wage, and

opens the way for Catholics to ignore the abortion views of candidates. It insists, however, that it is not endorsing any political party.

The Christian Socialist Movement (CSM), which is affiliated to Labour, was quick to claim that the party "can meet the challenges which the bishops set out and the concerns which they express."

David Cairns, the CSM national co-ordinator and former Catholic priest, said: "This is a clear repudiation of the Thatcherite creed that

there is no such thing as society and an equally clear condemnation of the failure of Conservative government policies to improve the lives of the poor and marginalised in Britain today."

A spokesman for David Blunkett, shadow education and employment secretary, said: "That the proposals happen to coincide with the policies that we have put forward is perhaps a reflection of the distance that the Government has put between itself and the views of wider society."

Labour deputy leader John Prescott said he had not read the document, The Common Good and the Catholic Church's Social Teaching, but maintained that his party stood for "social justice and... a one-nation society and, whether you're religious or not religious, you cast your vote on that basis".

At the launch, the bishops said they were not advocating a national minimum wage, but simply countenancing it if employers would not voluntarily give their workers enough pay to maintain a decent standard of living.

Chancellor Kenneth Clarke was quick to home in on the point, claiming BBC radio that a statutory minimum wage would be "disastrous", destroying jobs and increasing unemployment, particularly among the low-skilled.

active Methodist David Wilshire, the MP for Spelthorpe, said he did not know which New Testament the Catholic Church used, but if it was clearly not the same as his, "My New Testament does not say Jesus requires you to join a trade union. Nowhere in my New Testament does it say God is in favour of a minimum wage and nowhere does it say the Almighty is in favour of the EU."

The Liberal Democrat MP Charles Kennedy was terse. "If the Catholic hierarchy in Poland had issued similar statements a decade and a half ago, Mrs Thatcher would have enthusiastically applauded them," he said.

His colleague David Alton claimed many Catholics would not vote for MPs who countenanced abortion: "We all know that the Labour Party have made a virtue

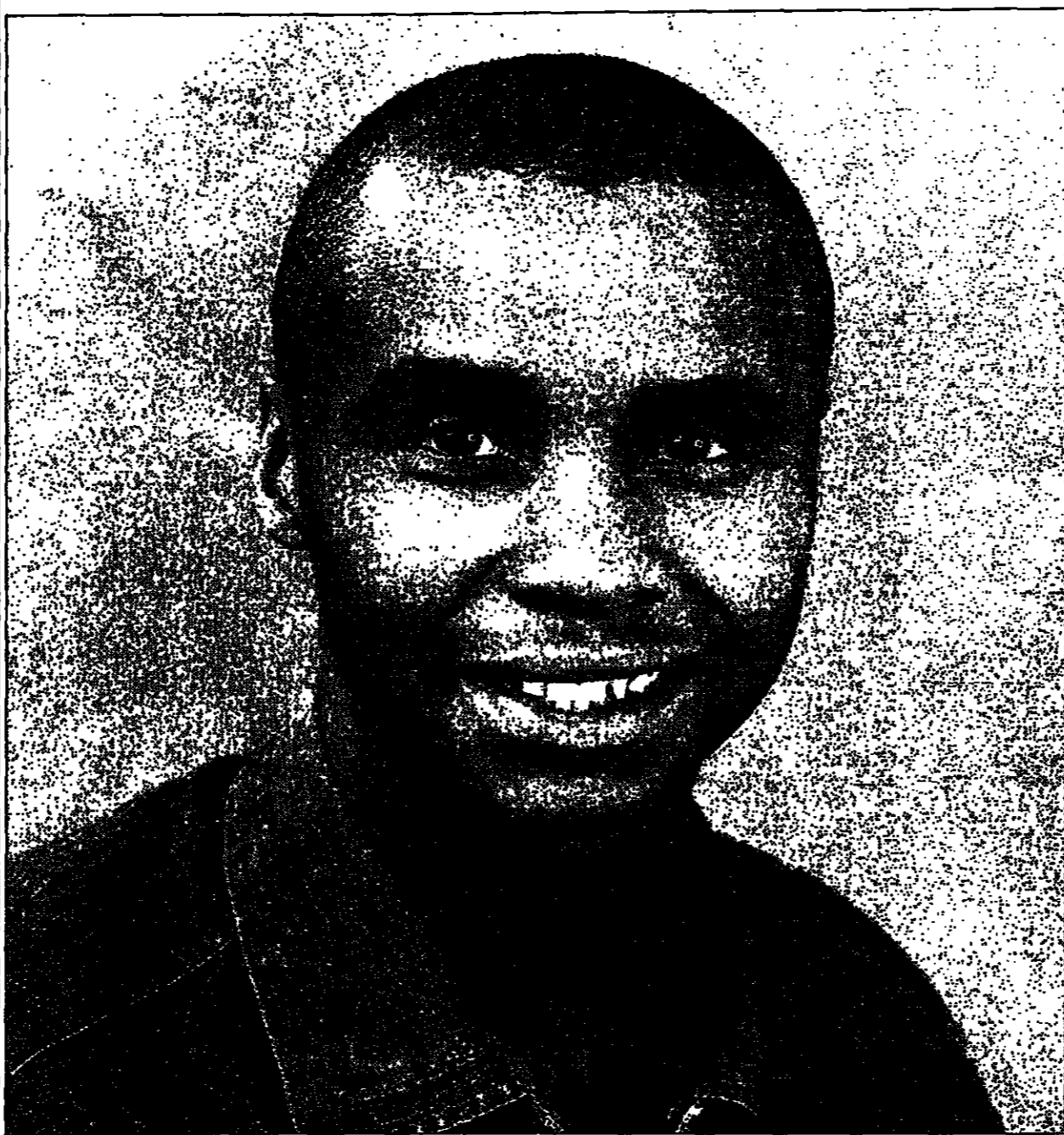
of their policy on abortion." However, the Rt Rev David Konstant, Bishop of Leeds and chairman of the working party which drew up the guidelines, said Catholics were not under a moral obligation. "I think it is legitimate for somebody to vote for somebody who is pro-abortion if they say what I'm voting for is this political party because I believe that the policies of this party are directed towards the common good."

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children condemned the bishops' attitude. "Catholics should read paper teaching which persistently makes it clear that the issues of abortion and euthanasia are fundamental concerns which cannot be ignored or downplayed," said John Smeaton, national director.

Bishops' case for minimum wage, page 4

'My New Testament does not say Jesus requires you to join a trade union. Nowhere does it say God is in favour of a minimum wage and nowhere does it say the Almighty is in favour of the EU'

— Conservative MP David Wilshire



Paul Cunningham, whose stolen passport in Thailand led to a bizarre story of his death from heroin overdose

Family cancels funeral as son comes back from the 'dead'

Week Chaudhary

A UNIVERSITY graduate whose family was told he died from a heroin overdose in Malaysia after his body was reported to have been discovered by a roadside has been found alive and well just days before his funeral was due to take place.

The bizarre story of Paul Cunningham's "death" began in September when his passport was stolen while he was travelling in Thailand. Mr Cunningham, aged 24, failed to report the theft but continued travelling. Almost two weeks ago a body was found in the Malaysian town of Butterworth in the northern state of Penang and Mr Cunningham's passport was discovered on it.

A post mortem showed that the dead man had swallowed 43 condoms packed with heroin and that one of the condoms had burst. The body was decomposed, making identification difficult.

After checking the passport, British Consulate officials told Mr Cunningham's family in Oadby, Leicestershire, he had died of a heroin overdose and they began preparing for his funeral. After being told the circumstances of the death, they were led to believe their son died trying to smuggle drugs out of Malaysia. Last Friday, however, Mr Cunningham arrived at the

British Consulate in Bangkok to report his passport missing, unaware that he had been reported as dead.

After carrying out checks, Consulate officials told his family yesterday that their "dead" son was in fact alive. He is due to be reunited with his family today.

His mother, Doreen, said yesterday: "I feel fantastic. The past 10 days have been hell. To be told your son is dead and then he is alive is just unreal. I can hardly describe my swing in emotions. I keep pinching myself to check it's real."

She added: "Paul hadn't got a clue what was going on. He had no idea about the grieving at home and continued his travels. But we had already arranged to have his body flown back and had put the funeral arrangements in place."

Mr Cunningham's father Ruel said: "The British Consulate were so positive it was Paul who had died. I am just extremely relieved to know that everything said about him was totally untrue. We always believed in him."

The passport, which has been checked by Foreign Office officials, was found to have been doctored and Mr Cunningham's picture changed. Officials believe that after being stolen in Thailand, it was taken across the border to Malaysia and bought by a drug smuggling gang.

New fans put Beatles on track to a record

Lisa Buckingham

THE Beatles are heading for the biggest record earnings in their history thanks to huge sales of the albums Anthology 1 and 2, it was revealed yesterday.

Nearly 30 years after their peak and having seen off fashions like punk, rap, soul, heavy metal, jungle, disco and new romantics, the Fab Four are once again top of the pops.

The band's record label, Apple, yesterday predicted that the Anthology series would mean total sales this year of more than 20 million albums worldwide. And the group's revived fortunes — which are expected to pull in nearly

£500 million this year mostly for its EMI record masters — are based on a new generation of fans. In the era of Britpop, Apple said that four out of every 10 Beatles records sold this year have been bought by teenagers.

Geoff Baker, spokesman for the Beatles, expressed surprise and delight. "Figures show that teenagers are by far the biggest group of buyers," he said. "You would have thought it would have been middle-aged people."

The two Anthology albums have so far sold 13 million copies between them worldwide, and back catalogue recordings such as Rubber Soul and Sergeant Pepper a total of 6 million.



Michael Jackson: deal with Sony on Beatles song rights

of recent hits such as Oasis's (What's The Story) Morning Glory, which is reckoned to have sold about 3 million in Britain up to August.

The Beatles' receipts from the group's revival, which include video sales, will be split between Paul McCartney, George Harrison, Ringo Starr and Yoko Ono, widow of John Lennon.

The sales performance augurs well for the third Anthology album — covering recordings from 1966 to 1970 — which will be released next week.

It is a far cry from 1962 when the Beatles signed up for EMI with dubious earnings potential and a royalty of a penny a record. When Michael Jackson came to conclude his block-

busting \$90 million (£593 million) multi-media contract with Sony in 1991 a higher value was placed on his rights to Lennon & McCartney songs than they had managed to secure themselves.

The rights to manage the Beatles' back catalogue were acquired from Jackson by EMI several years ago and have provided some of the strongest recent evidence of the earnings potentials of back catalogues.

EMI, recently spun off as an independent music company, saw its shares dip by 8 1/2p to 1280 1/2p despite the promising sales figures on lingering concerns that the world appetite for records and CDs is reaching a plateau.

'Staff have lost almost all sanctions'

continued from page 1 den (an even larger and more desolate estate down the hill). Then there were two, separate disruptive groups and it was like the atom: bring the two halves together and you get a chain reaction.

"We are not talking only about big, tough pupils. The problems run all the way through the school from Year Seven to Year 11."

"It cannot be allowed to go on at a school where the staff are hard-working, and professional people who do their best and the vast majority of the pupils want to learn and want to enjoy their schooldays."

Interview by Martin Wainwright

Course Application Form with fields for Name, Address, Date of Birth, Course Applied For, and Name of School or College.

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Advertisement for 'The true that you create pretty her phy' with a large image of a woman's face.

Handwritten documents capturing essence of Mahatma's credo to be auctioned

Handwritten documents capturing essence of Mahatma's credo to be auctioned



Gandhi with Lord and Lady Mountbatten in the garden of the viceroy's house in Delhi in 1947. In one key text Gandhi wrote to Mountbatten disputing his stance on partition

Gandhi's £1m words of wisdom

John Ezard

“EVEN if I am alone, I swear by non-violence and truth,” wrote Mahatma Gandhi, father of modern India, shortly before his assassination. These combined virtues stood “for the highest order of courage before which the atom bomb pales into insignificance”.

cache of 70 handwritten documents which came to light through Phillips, the London auctioneer. Said to rank in importance “with some of the great presidential archives and possibly the Churchill papers”, they are expected to fetch up to £1 million on November 14. Felix Pryor, the specialist who first read them, said: “I was left with a feeling of awe.”

are the original texts — scribbled in notebooks and on the backs of envelopes and recycled letters — of some of his most eloquent sayings on independence, partition and non-violence. Gandhi, who trained as a lawyer in London, wrote in English. His speeches and public prayers were translated by secretaries into Hindi and, often, back into English. Many of the existing official texts are considered unreliable because of this double translation process.

his former secretaries, V. Kalyanam, now in his seventies. Mr Kalyanam, who lives in Madras, has given them to a Hindu charitable foundation to fund the building of a temple. One key text is his letter to the Viceroy of India, Lord Mountbatten, countering Mountbatten’s argument that India’s Hindu majority would never have allowed partition if this had not been enforced by British rule.

“That Hindu society, by reason of its mere superiority in numbers, can crush millions of Muslims is an astonishing myth,” Gandhi wrote. The papers also contain his reply to Winston Churchill’s denunciation of inter-communal “horrors and butcheries, perpetrated upon one another with the ferocity of cannibals by races gifted with capacities for the highest culture”.

ing millions of people in which a few hundreds of thousands of savages count for little”. But the letters from his postbag which he recycled reveal the pressures Gandhi was under. The last letter he received, from a Calcutta academic, was almost prophetic of the assassination. It said: “The net result of your Calcutta fast has been immense gain for Pakistan and immense loss of prestige for India. Alas! This from you! Non-Muslims have, I am afraid, lost confidence in you. You do not feel for them...”

Home prices boosted by shortage

Teresa Hunter

PROPERTY prices are expected to rise sharply because of a serious shortage of houses for sale, according to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The number of properties on the market is at an eight-year low and has dropped by a third compared with the same period last year, it says. Although the scarcity of property could threaten a continued recovery in the housing market, it spells further price rises for homeowners with desirable properties in the short-term. Ian Perry, the institution’s housing market spokesman, said: “The scarcity of properties is forcing up prices but it also means that reasonably priced, desirable properties are being sold extremely quickly, giving the false impression that a boom is imminent.”

that prices are continuing to rise throughout the country — with a few localised exceptions. The fastest rate of increase is in the South, but Yorkshire and Humberside have also seen a large proportion of surveyors reporting price rises. Estate agent Bryan Elphick, of Ashstead, Surrey said: “We continue to be very busy, but are increasingly frustrated at the bareness of our cupboard. With more instructions, business could be quite exceptional.” This was echoed by Tim Russ, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire. He said: “Homes are generally selling quickly with prices improving. However, there remains a very limited choice in all price ranges.” John Pocock, of Cambridge, warned: “There is clearly a problem looming in the market with an insufficient supply of houses becoming available. This has brought about a sudden rise in the number of competitors for many homes with prices increasing as a result.” But improved sales and prices are not universal. Wilman & Lodge in Skipton, Yorkshire, expressed concern at the relatively poor level of sales of cheaper properties. Richard Storry, of Stokesley, North Yorkshire, said: “There has been an increase in activity, but we feel this has not yet given rise to price and valuation increases.” The institution confirmed

All's well that ends well for Wallace and Gromit

Ian Katz in New York

NATIONAL cultural disaster was narrowly averted yesterday morning when an apologetic New York taxi driver returned Britain’s most famous Plasticine film stars to their Oscar winning creator, Nick Park. The British film-maker had been distraught since being parted from his beloved Wallace and Gromit as they arrived in New York during a fierce storm on Saturday evening. The original models of the cheese-loving inventor and his cerebral pooch, along with their £6,000 motorcycle and side-car, were left in the boot of a taxi after a hotel porter unloaded Mr Park’s bags.

Mr Park gave chase but lost the taxi in heavy traffic on 5th street. He and publicist Arthur Sheriff spent the weekend contacting local radio stations, police and companies and producing a “photofit” of the missing duo. Mr Park said the taxi driver walked into the Ritz Royal hotel carrying the black box containing Wallace and Gromit yesterday morning. “I couldn’t believe it because I had sort of resigned myself to not seeing them again.” Mr Park said he offered the cabbie money, but he would not accept it. Wallace and Gromit were both fine. Mr Park recalled Wallace’s remark at the end of The Wrong Trousers: “All’s well that ends well.”



“At once I saw that I had to be in Delhi and do or die. No man, if he is pure, has anything more precious to give than his life”

26-1-48
Brotherhood Sisters,
This observance was quite appropriate when we had were fighting for independence we had not seen nor heard of. Now! we have heard it and we seem to be disillusioned. At least I am even if you are not. what are we celebrating today? surely not our disillusionment. we are entitled to celebrate the hope that the war is over and that we are on the road to showing the lowliest of the villager that if means his freedom from despotism.

A letter written by Gandhi two days before his assassination is among those being auctioned

There is talk in Bombay of spending 10 lacs (1 million rupees) on erecting my statue. I must dissent emphatically. In Bombay the beautiful, insatiable reigns, there is so much overcrowding that poor people are packed like sardines. Wise use of 10 lacs will consist in its being spent on some public utility. — article, September 13, 1947

At once I saw that I had to be in Delhi and do or die. No man, if he is pure, has anything more precious to give than his life. I flatter myself with the belief that the loss of her soul by India will mean the loss of the hope of the aching, storm-tossed and hungry world. — prayer speech announcing last fast to stop communal slaughter, January 12, 1948

It was a soul-stirring sight for me to meet Muslim sisters in large numbers yesterday. Girls in their party told me they were uncertain whether they should come to me. They were in Purdah, most of them. I suggested they would not wear the Purdah before their fathers or brothers. Why should they think less of me? And off came the Purdah without exception. I mention this to show what genuine love is able to do. — prayer speech, January 19, 1948

pearance of the exquisite workmanship of Muslims... The condition for keeping me in your midst is that all communities in India live at peace by force of love, than which there is no better cement to be found in the world. — same speech

The trouble with being a celebrity for doing nothing, is that you disappear into the candyfloss of your own creation. Mark Borkowski warns: “The price of fame is pretty high. Caprice may need some talent other than her physical attributes when things begin to sag.”

Portrait, G2 page 8

Advertisement for American Express Card. The main headline reads: “besides the American Express Card, what else gets replaced”. Below this, there is an image of an American Express card and a small image of a suitcase. The text continues: “Plenty. When you carry the American Express Charge Card, you take with you the knowledge that you have coverage for some very important things. Such as compensation for lost or delayed luggage. Coverage for the cost of food and accommodation incurred for scheduled flights that get delayed for four hours or more. 1,700 Travel Service locations worldwide ready to help you with advice and arrangements. Our Global Assist service, which can refer you to an English-speaking doctor or lawyer virtually anywhere in the world, twenty-four hours a day. All these, and many more, designed to reduce your concern with confidence. To find out how we can help you do more, call now: 0800 700 767”. At the bottom right, there is the American Express logo and the word “Cards”.

Religion, morality and politics

Catholic blessing for minimum pay

Pre-election briefing backs membership of trade unions and amounts to a wide-ranging criticism of Conservative record. Madeleine Bunting reports

THE Catholic Church's remarkable pre-election briefing throws its moral authority behind a minimum wage, a bill of rights and membership of trade unions in what amounts to a trenchant and wide-ranging criticism of four terms of Conservative government.

The 13,000-word closely argued pamphlet, *The Common Good and the Catholic Church's Social Teaching*, has been drawn up by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and will be distributed to every parish with the recommendation that every Catholic should reflect on its content in deciding how to cast their vote.

The document is certain to provoke bitter criticism from prominent right-wing Catholics such as the Cabinet ministers, Ann Widdecombe and John Gummer, because of its insistence that the gospel imperative to love your neighbour requires Catholics to "address the causes of destitution and poverty".

Catholics had to strive to build a "just and compassionate society" writes Cardinal Basil Hume, the head of more than 14 million practising Catholics in England and Wales, in his preface in which he denounces the "abuse of economic power" which deprives employees of a decent wage.

Fearful of the political mischief which the bishops are stepping into, the Right Reverend David Konstant, Bishop of Leeds, and head of the working party which wrote the document, insisted that the church was not telling Catholics how to vote. But the scattering of key political catch phrases throughout the text will be seized upon as indicative of a strong bias towards Labour and Liberal Democrat policies.

"Stakeholder", much used by the Labour Party, is referred to with approbation while rejection of Baroness Thatcher's famous comment, "There is no such thing as society", is the starting point for the central theme of the common good. There is a flat rejection of another famous concept of Thatcherite conservatism - that wealth will "trickle down".

And in a reference to a remark once made by a leading Conservative that unemployment was a price worth paying for low inflation, the bishops insist that no section of society should be sacrificed for the advantage of the majority.

Controversy will also focus on the few issues on which the bishops have committed themselves to a political position. Foremost of these is their stand on the minimum wage opposed by the Conservatives but policy for both Labour and Liberal Democrats.

"Employers have a duty to pay a just wage, the level of which should take account of the needs of the individual and not just his or her value on the so-called labour market. If employers do not do

Main points

□ **Poverty:** Even "relative poverty", must be addressed. The gap between rich and poor undermines the common good.

□ **Morality in the market place:** Laissez-faire capitalism is incompatible with Catholic teaching on the common good.

□ **The media:** Broadcasters and journalists are responsible for declining standards.

□ **Workers' rights:** Workers have rights superior to those of capital, including the right to decent work, to just wages, to security of employment, to adequate rest and holidays, to health and safety protection, to non-discrimination, to form and join trade unions and, as a last resort, to go on strike.

□ **The right to life:** Catholics had to speak out against the use of abortion to solve social or personal difficulties.

... this voluntarily ... the state (should) make them do so by means of a statutory minimum wage."

Equally controversial is the stand on trade unions. They back collective bargaining and declare that Catholics "where possible should join an appropriate trade union. We do not think the decline in union membership in recent years is necessarily a healthy



Cardinal Basil Hume ... he denounces the 'abuse of economic power' which deprives employees of a decent wage

PHOTOGRAPH BY GARRY WEAVER

sign." But they warn against unions being too closely associated with political parties.

"Some strengthening" of the protection of human rights was necessary, either by a Bill of Rights or by incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into British domestic law.

The briefing outlines the principles which should

underlie political life, drawing heavily on the social teaching of the Vatican and the present Pope rather than tackling specific policy areas.

The bulk of the document is devoted to the question of social cohesion and mutual responsibilities. Catholics had a responsibility to use whatever influence they had to improve the welfare of "people on low incomes, dis-

abled, ill or infirm, homeless or poorly housed, in prison, refugees". Everyone had a right to "decent work, housing, health care, freedom of speech, education and to raise and provide for a family".

The bishops are careful to acknowledge that market forces "when properly regulated" create wealth, but warn that sharp inequality between the rich and the poor

undermines the common good. An employee is not a "commodity to be bought and sold according to market requirements".

In a stout defence of a state-run NHS and of the public service ethos of local and national government, the bishops argue that social services need other incentives than pure profit and "the introduction of market forces in

this area has sometimes demeaned or damaged the sense of vocation and dedication to others which has traditionally been a hallmark of the professions involved".

Referring to the lack of respect for politicians, the bishops say "those who have, by their behaviour, contributed to a climate of distrust must bear some considerable responsibility".

Christianity in Labour Party returns from the wilderness

Ewen MacAskill reports on a religious reincarnation on the political stage

RELIGION became fashionable in the Labour Party again in 1993 after the late John Smith made a speech at Bloomsbury Baptist Church, central London, linking his

Christian beliefs and democratic socialism. Although he had not concealed his Christianity, it came as a surprise that a Labour leader should devote a whole speech to religion. It

contrasted with the 1980s, in which the party had appeared to be mainly agnostic. Both the party leaders in the 1980s, Michael Foot and Neil Kinnock, had been agnostic.

Mr Smith, a member of the Church of Scotland and the Christian Socialist Movement, argued that Christianity had an important part to play in countering both Th-

cherite laissez-faire politics, with its emphasis on the individual rather than society, and the Marxist left.

Tony Blair had been influenced by the Christian writings of a Scots theologian, John Macmurray, since his students days. When Smith's Bloomsbury speech was published in 1993 in a collection on Christianity and social-

ism, Reclaiming the Ground, it was Mr Blair who wrote the foreword. He said Christianity provided a "powerful compass" for the direction Britain needed to take. "A return to what we are really about, what we believe in, would be a healthy journey for our country as well as the Labour Party," he said.

With two leaders both believing in God, it was safe for Christians to come out again. The Christian Socialist Movement rose from 1,200 in 1993 to 5,000 at present, according to Chris Bryant, its chairman and a Labour parliamentary candidate. He adds that 40 members of the parliamentary party are members of the movement and 23 are parliamentary candidates. Of the shadow cabinet, eight are members - Mr Blair, Gordon Brown, Jack Straw, Chris Smith, Tom Clarke, David Clark, Michael Mescher and Derek Foster.

There is a queasiness on the left over the religious overtones in some recent speeches, particularly some of Mr Blair's. They fear it opens the way for US-style Moral Majority politics, if not in the Labour Party, in British politics.

The re-entry of Christianity

Major

"I do believe [in God]. I don't pretend to understand all of the complex parts of Christian theology, but I simply accept it". "I am sure it is possible to draw some correlation between the decline in church attendance and a rise in social ills ... I would like to see much greater partnership between the Church and the state at all levels to rebuild the moral and social fabric of our society."

Blair

"The way I have reinterpreted the socialist message politically is to say that social responsibility is important to reinforce personal responsibility, not as a substitute for it, and I think that is what the Christian religion is about. It's important the Church does not become an adjunct of any political party, but I think it would be bizarre if there were enormous problems in society and the Church said, 'Well, look, I'm afraid those aren't for us, those are for the politicians.'"

Ashdown

"I note that the best things have been done in the name of religion, but the worst things have been done in its name as well. "I count myself a Christian but I get uncomfortable when somebody says, 'Are you Protestant or a Roman Catholic?'" That's not the kind of Christian I am.

All quotes from *Belief in Politics* by Roy McCloughry. Published by Hodder & Stoughton.

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Keir Hardie: early advocate of Christianity in party

Ramsay MacDonald: leader who was also Christian

Michael Foot: lead party which appeared agnostic

Neil Kinnock: followed Foot in agnosticism

NHS 'should run jail hospitals'

Owen Bowcott and Alan Travis

THE Prison Service's medical division provides such an inadequate level of patient care that it should urgently be incorporated into the National Health Service, according to a leaked copy of a report by the Chief Inspector of Prisons.

The 47-page document, entitled *Prisoner or Patient?*, is understood to be an early draft of Sir David Ramsbotham's recommendations which have been at the centre of a long-running dispute with the Home Office.

The report comes amid mounting concern over the level of suicides among prisoners. Already this year there have been 51 self-inflicted deaths among those on remand or serving sentences

in England and Wales. The figure for the whole of last year was 60.

Sir David has not shirked from confrontation with the Home Office. Last December, he ordered his inspection team to walk out of Holloway prison to protest against the jail's appalling conditions.

The fact that his latest report had become an issue of contention between Sir David and the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, was reported in the Guardian last summer. There were also claims of attempts to suppress or revise it.

The draft document, obtained by Channel 4 News in advance of the final report which is due to be released on Friday, urges that the issue of how the medical service is run should be resolved within months rather than years.

Sir David warns: "The NHS should assume responsibility for the delivery of all health care. Only in this way can consistency of service to everyone, in or out of prison, be ensured."

Deborah Coles, of the pressure group Inquest, which monitors deaths in custody, yesterday welcomed the report's conclusions: "We have always argued that the prison health service is far too closely linked to punitive aspects of the regime."

The Prison Service declined to comment until the report had been officially released.

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Stagg of innoc for fee

Internet

Stuart Miller

Stagg offers proof of innocence for fee of £4,000

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

COLIN Stagg, acquitted of the murder of Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common in 1992, yesterday offered for sale more than 50 defence files which he claimed would prove his innocence. A distinguished psychologist who would have given evidence for Mr Stagg if the trial had continued, also argued that the evidence pointed to his innocence. The claims came in response to the publication in the Mail on Sunday of statements of prosecution witnesses. The statements were never used in the Old Bailey trial because Mr Stagg was acquitted after the judge, Mr Justice Ognall, had ruled inadmissible the evidence gathered by an undercover police officer, "Lizzie James".

In a statement yesterday, Mr Stagg, aged 33, offered to make fresh evidence available for money. "Why shouldn't I make something considering I am the poorest one out of all of them and in reality it's my right and my story." A fee of £4,000 was requested. His wife, Diane, aged 28, said from their home in Roshampton, south-west London, that her husband had left for a few days because of media harassment, but he returned later. Earlier Mrs Stagg had turned a hosepipe outside their house. Peter Cadman, Mr Stagg's lawyer, complained about the media. "Yet again the result of this article has been a media posse encamped outside our client's address. Mr Stagg wishes to put this matter behind him. There is a fresh team of detectives who have been working on this investigation since Mr Stagg's

acquittal in September, 1994. He trusts that their enquiries will lead to the arrest, charge and conviction of the murderer." Through his lawyer, Mr Stagg claimed that senior police officers and Crown counsel had accepted that there had been insufficient evidence to start a trial against him. He also claimed that the evidence recently published in the media was flawed. He received support from David Canter, professor of psychology at Liverpool University, who has also been carrying out a detailed study of the way in which the case was investigated. After studying the case and after interviewing Mr Stagg, he had been able to find no evidence that pointed to his guilt. "In fact, there are many (pieces of evidence) that support his innocence." Professor Canter, who advises the police service on interview techniques and has assisted them in many cases, said that the prosecution statements published gave a very limited perspective. "One of the great things about British justice is that we don't expect people to be tried in the media," said Professor Canter, author of Criminal Shadows, a study of serial-killing investigations. Mr Stagg had answered every question he asked him satisfactorily and had not fudged on any. As a result of the way the case was conducted he was now advising police on techniques to help them avoid coercive questioning.



Diane Stagg leaves her home, yesterday after turning a hosepipe on journalists outside. PHOTOGRAPH: JUSTIN WILLIAMS

Musician revs up his Saracens to back up Devon anti-road protesters



RECORD producer Jim Cauley, formerly of rock band KLF, pumps up the volume in one of his two armoured personnel carriers — ready to do battle in support of anti-roads campaigners, writes Geoffrey Gibbs. Armed with nothing deadlier than low frequency sound waves, the Saracens have joined protesters living in a field at Trollheim, Devon — one of three camps set up in the path of the

new A30 between Honiton and Exeter. The former Ministry of Defence vehicles have been turned into giant mobile sound systems by Mr Cauley, who gave a demonstration of their frightening power by playing Louis Armstrong's 'What a Wonderful World' and music by the Carpenters yesterday. Even worse could be in store for bailiffs, he warns. "We like to surprise you. When the day comes,

the sonic tone you can hear in the background will be much louder and much more abrasive." Protesters at the three camps have been on red alert for eviction since the beginning of last week when the Anglo-German consortium chosen to build and operate the route under the Government's private finance initiative won possession orders on the land in the High Court. PHOTOGRAPH: SHAMUS McCAFFREY

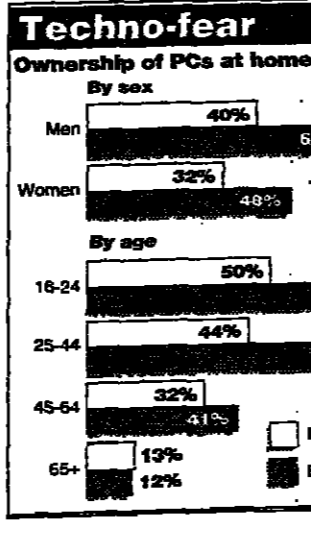


Internet revolution 'creating underclass'

Sceptical 'have nots' could fall into information void and lose out in job market. **Stuart Millar** surfs the IT divide

THE information technology revolution is creating a divided society with almost half the British public fearing they are being left behind, according to a report published yesterday. The report, commissioned by the electronics firm Motorola, warned that the disturbing number of information "have-nots" could be left at a disadvantage in the employment market as new technologies continue to be introduced. It also suggested the Government and industry could save billions of pounds and improve services if access to on-line services was widened. "Having an IT underclass, without the means or knowledge or to some extent desire to gear up for the future, will mean that society will fall further behind in the ability to take advantage of all that information technology can offer," the report argues. Information technology has already emerged as a potent political issue, with Tony Blair committing Labour to widening access in schools.

with 25 per cent of those aged 45 and over. The report argued that lack of knowledge meant older people risked missing out on opportunities to make their lives easier, such as on-line shopping. It also warned that working class and unemployed people were likely to fall into the "information void". But while the current generation remained unconvinced, there was almost universal agreement that new technology offered great opportunities for the future. More than 80 per cent believed that children would find it useful to have access to the Internet in the controlled environment offered in schools, and more than half predicted they would own personal computers by the end of the decade. Similarly, 53 per cent were comfortable with the idea of casting their votes electronically, while 46 per cent said they would be happy to do their banking via computer.



- ### The Internet
- 85% of the population have heard of the Internet
 - 9% use it on a regular basis
 - 78% wouldn't know how to get connected even if they wanted to
 - 25% don't use the Internet because they're not interested

On line

TOM WHITWELL does not believe in technology by halves. The 24-year-old freelance writer's home is cluttered with equipment from computers to mobile telephones, but he insisted yesterday, no anoraks. "I'm not a nerd, I have a social life. But I do feel the need to have the latest or the fastest thing. I always end up spending more than I intended on technology that I'll probably never use to its full potential." His most expensive purchase was a new personal computer, complete with printer, Internet connection and fax modem. "The extras made it expensive, but it comes in handy for work." Like many, he remains unconvinced by the wonders of the Internet. "It's great if you are looking for something specific and you know where to find it. But it's too expensive just to surf around, and most of the stuff on the net is rubbish." Mr Whitwell's introduction to computers was typical. "I was given a Sinclair Spectrum when I was 12. I loved the games, then when I went to college I started to use PCs properly." — Stuart Millar

Off line

FOR Lesley Bryant, the information revolution has been a something of a blur. "One minute, people who were into computers were the next they are the ones with prospects," she said. At 34, the insurance adviser feels that she is part of an older generation. "Computers hold no interest for me. Everybody goes on about surfing the net or sending e-mails. I feel old-fashioned because I would rather pick up the phone or go for a drink." Her one concession to modern technology, a pager, was made grudgingly. "My office wanted to give me a mobile phone, but nothing irritates me more than people sitting on the train shouting to be heard. The pager was a compromise but half the time I switch it off." Behind the disdain, she admits that part of her animosity is fuelled by fear. "It annoys me, I am an intelligent, professional woman, but when someone mentions technology my brain switches off. And then I feel stupid because I don't understand." "I look at my seven-year-old niece, and she is fearless with computers. That makes me feel more left out." — Stuart Millar

Sex case men tell court their lives are 'shattered'

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

SIXTEEN men who were jailed for taking part in sado-masochistic sexual activities could be compensated if a challenge to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg is successful. The law which criminalises sado-masochistic sex between consenting adults infringes individuals' right to a private life as guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights, say three of the men. They were jailed after the notorious Operation Spanner case in 1990. If they succeed, the Government will be forced to change the law and pay them compensation. Lawyers for Roland Jaggard, Anthony Brown and Colin Laskey —

were no defence. The men were originally sentenced to jail terms of up to 4½ years, which were later reduced on appeal. The case went to the House of Lords, where the men lost by a 3:2 majority. Lord Lester QC told the Strasbourg judges yesterday that the case raised important issues of general public interest. The three men's lives had been shattered, and Mr Brown and Mr Jaggard "will continue to suffer a special degree of misery for the rest of their lives". The law was "unprincipled and incoherent and in urgent need of coherent reform". The Law Commission was awaiting Strasbourg's judgment because of the risk of serious injury and infection, and possible corruption of the young. John Wadham, director of the civil liberties group, Liberty, and one of the lawyers for the men, said: "Consent forms a defence to assault in sports, medical operations, ear piercing, religious flagellation and many other practices which are not to everyone's taste. The police should be out catching real criminals."

Law 'unprincipled and incoherent and in urgent need of reform'

The Government argues that banning sado-masochistic practices is justified because of the risk of serious injury and infection, and possible corruption of the young. John Wadham, director of the civil liberties group, Liberty, and one of the lawyers for the men, said: "Consent forms a defence to assault in sports, medical operations, ear piercing, religious flagellation and many other practices which are not to everyone's taste. The police should be out catching real criminals."

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6 WORLD NEWS

Lawyers ridicule proposal for promotion tests

Belgians promised fast judicial reform

Stephen Bates in Brussels

BELGIUM'S prime minister insisted yesterday that he would move swiftly on judicial reforms he promised in the wake of the biggest demonstration in his country's history. But Belgian lawyers reacted sceptically to the government's plans.

Shaken by the scale of Sunday's peaceful march, at which more than a quarter of a million people protested against the authorities' handling of Belgium's paedophile scandal, all political parties accepted proposals by Jean-Luc Dehaene to end the traditional party nomination of judges and magistrates.

Lawyers, however, ridiculed the government's proposal to introduce written tests for judicial promotions.

At the end of Sunday's march, Mr Dehaene rushed out an announcement promising reforms after meeting relatives of the victims of the paedophile ring organised by the Charleroi builder Marc Dutroux.

He told the BBC: "We have a system of promotion in the judiciary which dates from the time of Napoleon and that causes problems which make it outdated.

"There is a widespread idea

that there are highly placed people protecting the pseudo-networking that we are trying to maintain a cover-up, but that is not the case. The next few weeks will make it clear that there is no cover-up and we want to clarify all aspects of the case."

Mr Dehaene has been widely criticised for complacency in response to the torrent of national emotion unleashed by the scandal and revelations about the incompetence of the police and judicial investigations into the abduction of children. Four girls, including two eight-year-olds, have been found dead at properties owned by Dutroux, and 13 people have so far been arrested, but there has been condemnation of the authorities for mishandling inquiries when the children, and others who have not yet been found, went missing.

Mr Dehaene promised that a centre for abused children would be set up before the end of the year and there would be a reform of the country's 160-year-old constitution to end party nominations to the judicial bench.

Stefaan de Clerck, the justice minister, met magistrates and members of the judiciary yesterday. As he did so, protesting students stoned court buildings and wildcat strikes resumed on the railways.

The protests started last in response to the Belgian supreme court's decision to remove Jean-Marc Connerotte, the popular investigating magistrate in the Dutroux case, for compromising his impartiality by attending a fundraising meal arranged by campaigners against child abuse. That decision, widely seen as respecting the letter of the law rather than following its spirit, was interpreted in Belgium as an assertion of judicial independence against political and public pressure by the judges.

Big criminal inquiries have been bedevilled in recent years by the low calibre of magistrates whose job is to lead investigations. Mr Connerotte is regarded as an outstanding exception. When the government introduced a written test for aspiring magistrates two years ago, it found insufficient applicants to fill vacancies.

A senior Brussels lawyer said last night: "It will take years to phase out the political appointees and there is no guarantee that better judges will be appointed in their place. Written examinations do not guarantee against the promotion of nitwits either. While the judiciary is incapable of reforming itself in a more modern way, problems will remain."

Kohl prescribes Germany bitter medicine on jobs

Ian Traynor in Hannover

CHANCELLOR Helmut Kohl backed away yesterday from his ambitious plan to halve Germany's record unemployment within four years, admitting that the goal, unveiled earlier this year, was unrealistic.

In a 100-minute address to the congress of his Christian Democrat party, Mr Kohl also reiterated his commitment to a single European currency and a federal Europe.

The European Union is turning into the major global economic and political actors in the coming century," he said.

Repeating his conviction that a united Europe is the key to future stability, he added: "Peace and freedom are not guaranteed and can't be bought for free."

But the speech, received warmly by more than 1,000 delegates, concentrated almost exclusively on Germany's dismal economic per-

formance and ways to put the country back to work by making it more competitive.

"It is time for change, that is the message here," Mr Kohl said, outlining a radical shift in German economic culture to end the decline.

At the beginning of the year, the chancellor unveiled a package of spending cuts and supply-side measures aimed at cutting job costs to employers and halving the 4 million unemployed by 2000.

Yesterday he admitted he may have bitten off more than he can chew. "I know that the plan is ambitious," he said. "I'd be happy if we achieve two-thirds of that figure."

He blamed the jobless total on a flood of immigrants since the collapse of communism. In the five years to 1993, he said, 2.5 million immigrants had found jobs.

He also said the country's traditional consensus approach to industrial relations had become a crippling liability.

"If no consensus is possible,

as in recent months, then there need to be decisions," he said. "It is not up to politicians to mediate but to act."

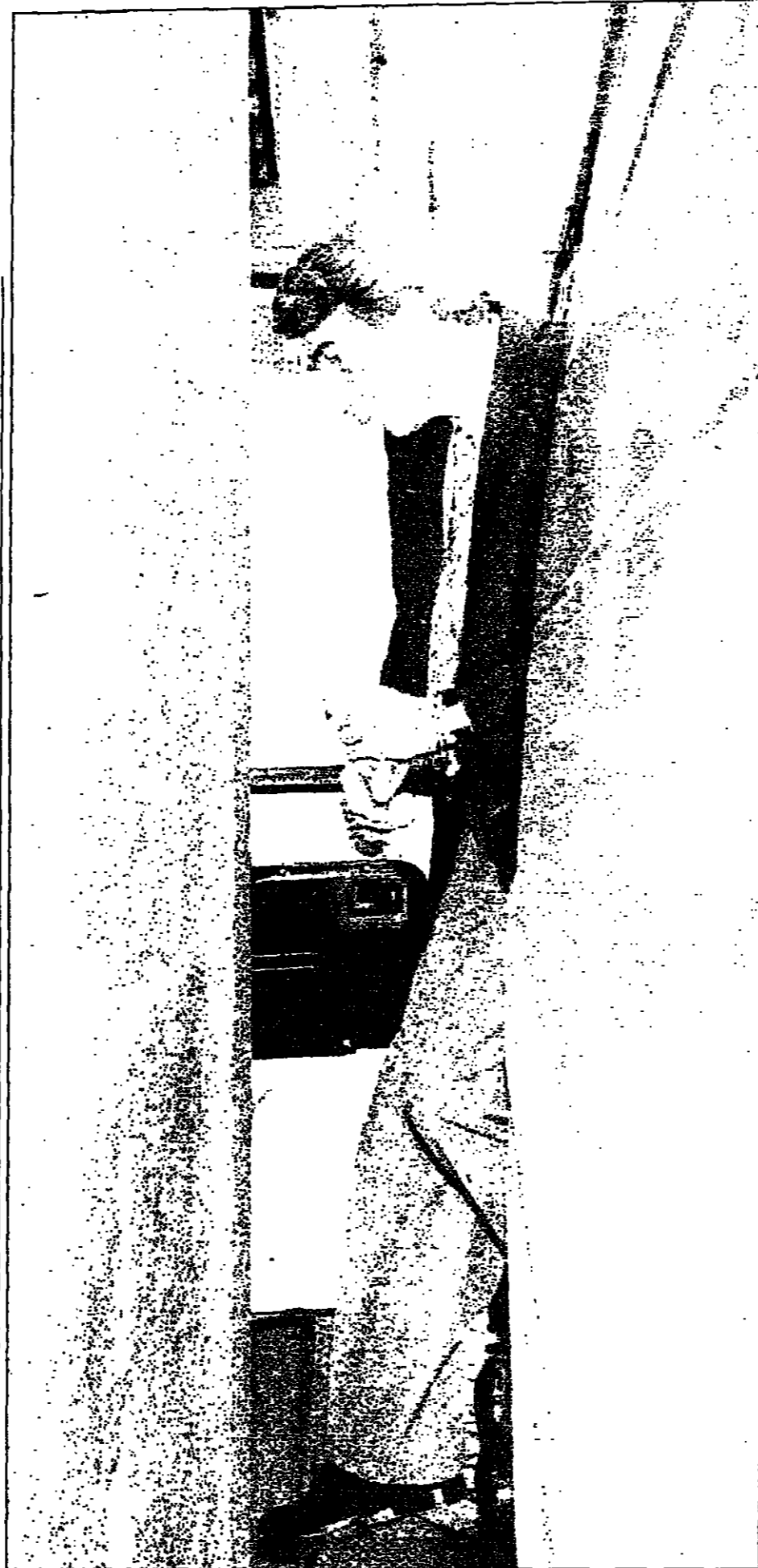
Mr Kohl's vision of a leaner and meaner Germany suggests more spending cuts are likely as the country struggles to get its public finances in order to meet the terms of the single European currency next year.

After a week of battles within the ruling coalition about next year's budget, he backed his finance minister, Theo Waigel, who has come under attack from outside and inside the government.

Mr Kohl delivered his speech a few days before he becomes the country's longest-serving post-war chancellor, a prospect that excited the congress.

The labour minister, Norbert Blum, summed up the mood in a eulogy to the leader.

"We thank you for a great political life achievement. You are the chancellor of two great projects: of German unity and of European unity."



Belgium's former minister Alain Van der Biest is led from a police van yesterday to be questioned about the murder of politician Andre Cools in 1991. PHOTOGRAPH BY BRUNO DE GOSSEL

Clinton pushes ahead on Nato enlargement

Martin Walker in Washington reports on the president's plan for the alliance, which looks like being a vote-winner

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton will today formally present a "concrete timetable" for the enlargement of Nato, putting the prestige of his office behind a firm deadline for the completion of negotiations by 1999.

He will not name the successful countries to avoid offending those excluded. But initial planning with Nato allies is based on the incorporation of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. Slovakia's application has been delayed because of concerns about its democratic status.

Mr Clinton's speech in Detroit — a politically important region crowded with voters of Czech, Polish and Hungarian stock — will be his major foreign policy statement of the election campaign, designed to answer Republican taunts that he has a "photo-opportunity foreign policy".

The speech has been phrased with extreme caution, each clause fine-tuned by the Pentagon and state department to avoid affront to Nato allies and Russia.

"The president has been the pusher and the leader on this issue, and he is now forcing the pace with a concrete timetable, and will work to bring the allies along on those that are chosen for the first wave of entry," a senior administration source said.

The speech, with its post-election agenda, represents a clear sign of Mr Clinton's confidence that he will beat his Republican rival, Bob Dole. Plans are already being made for a tour of Warsaw, Prague and Budapest once the accession negotiations begin next spring.

Mr Clinton is then expected to fly to Stockholm for a compensatory meeting with the leaders of the Baltic states Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, whose membership is being deferred.

The key date to be decided is next spring's Nato summit. Because of the likelihood of a British general election in late April or early May, the

United States and other allies are pressing for a summit in March.

But there is little time to build a promised new consultation system between Russia and Nato by then, and to reassure countries such as Slovenia and Romania which also missed out on the first wave.

There is no difference between Mr Clinton and Mr Dole on the principle of enlargement. But Mr Clinton has been encouraged, two weeks before election day, to nail his colours to the mast by a new opinion poll which shows broad US public support for expansion. Only a minority would oppose sending US troops to defend a new Nato member.

The raw poll figures show 62 per cent in favour of enlarging Nato, 23 per cent opposed, and the rest had no firm opinion. Among respondents who identified themselves by party, 64 per cent of Democrats were in favour, as were 60 per cent of Republicans.

The post-election agenda gives a clear sign of his confidence that he will beat Bob Dole

Strikingly, when respondents were given 10 arguments for and 10 arguments against expansion, support for the move strengthened. The only arguments against an enlarged alliance which had any impact on the public were the fear of higher costs to the US, and concern about extending an American nuclear guarantee to the new members.

The poll was conducted last month by the Centre for the Study of Policy Attitudes and the University of Maryland. The polling data were reinforced by a study of focus groups recruited in Nashville and Baltimore.

When asked which countries should be admitted to Nato, 68 per cent of respondents supported Poland, followed by Hungary, 63 per cent; Czech Republic, 56 per cent; Romania, 55 per cent; Baltic states, 54 per cent; Russia, 52 per cent; Slovakia, 50 per cent; Ukraine, 50 per cent; and Slovenia, 41 per cent.

World news in brief

Finns' vote reflects fears of single currency

THE Finns, generally the most Europhile of the European Union's newcomers, showed in elections to the European Parliament this weekend that they share growing fears about closer EU integration, writes Jon Henley in Helsinki.

But while voters returned six Eurosceptic candidates among the 16 deputies to the Strasbourg Parliament, the result was seen more as a criticism of the Finnish govern-

ment's eagerness to join the single currency than as a vote of no confidence in the EU.

Finland whose proximity to Russia means it views membership as much in terms of security as of trade, joined the EU with Austria and Sweden in January 1995.

Helped by a 10 per cent fall in food prices, opinion polls show more than one-third of Finns regret their decision.

But the governing left-right coalition, led by the Social

Democrats, took Finland last weekend into Europe's currency exchange rate mechanism (ERM), widely seen as the waiting room for a single currency. This was exploited by Eurosceptics.

Though Eurosceptic candidates performed well, the vote left Finland's distribution of seats in the European Parliament little changed: the five coalition partners hold 12 seats and the opposition Centre Party four.

Lithuanians turn back to anti-Soviet hero

Jon Henley in Helsinki

LITHUANIAN voters, disillusioned after four years of rule by the former communists, appeared yesterday to have handed power back to the brave if unlikely hero who led them out of the Soviet Union in 1991, Vytautas Landsbergis.

Delayed results dribbling in from Sunday's elections showed the rightwing Homeland Union of Mr Landsbergis, a former music teacher and Lithuania's first post-independence president, holding a commanding lead over the Lithuanian Democratic Labour Party (LDLP).

"This means Lithuanians can live with more hope and trust: the road is going to be straighter and life is going to be more decent," said Mr Landsbergis, who has repeatedly accused the LDLP of mismanagement and corruption.

With more than a third of results in, the Homeland Union led 27 per cent of the first-round vote, which will decide 70 seats, while the LDLP had 10 per cent. A runoff on November 10 will decide the remaining 71 seats.

LDLP officials admitted defeat and said they were prepared to work in opposition to an expected coalition of the Homeland Union and Christian Democrats.

Lithuania turned away from its independence leaders in 1989 as free-market reforms rocked its fragile economy. But the LDLP, despite cutting inflation and boosting production, failed to improve the lives of most Lithuanians.

Nearly 30 per cent of the country's 3.7 million people live in poor rural areas, where the breaking up of Soviet-era farms has seen incomes plummet. Analysts said a strong rural protest vote was largely behind the fall in support for the LDLP.

But many voters were also worried about crime and government corruption.

Mr Landsbergis, who ran on a platform of clean government, lower taxes and more welfare spending, is tipped to become parliamentary speaker before running against the former communist president, Algirdas Brazauskas, in 1998.

Hurricane-hit Cuba appeals

THE United Nations has launched an appeal for funds to help Cuba with losses suffered from Hurricane Lili.

Cuba's government has requested international assistance in four areas — food, medical supplies, supplies to assure clean water and building materials.

Specifically, Cuban officials asked for powdered milk, wheat flour, cooking oil, canned meat and cereals. In the medical area, they need anti-diarrhoea drugs and chlorine for water disinfection, the UN agency said.

More than a million tons of food crops were destroyed, including some of the best citrus orchards and plantain plantations, when the hurricane struck Cuba. It also forced 192,000 people to be evacuated and destroyed an estimated 4,300 homes. Winds and rain damaged 18 hospitals, 32 schools and 233 industrial plants. — Reuter.

Donors cut back on international assistance to 'oil-rich' Russia

INTERNATIONAL humanitarian aid to Russia is drying up because donor countries think of it as an oil-rich state, despite its having 40 million people living on or below the poverty line, writes David Hearst in Moscow.

The International Federation of the Red Cross has raised only 17 per cent of the money for this year's aid programme to Russia, and expects to get by the end of the year only 25 per cent of the

funds needed. George Weber, general director of the IFRC, said donors no longer view Russia as a legitimate destination for humanitarian assistance, other than for emergencies like earthquakes.

Mr Weber said: "It's more being thought of as a recipient of IMF loans and World Bank projects. The problem is that this money does not filter down and it does not create institutions which produce a civil society."

Ousted emir 'coming home'

QATAR'S deposed emir is expected to return home soon from self-imposed exile following an agreement over missing funds, cabinet minister said yesterday.

"God willing, his royal highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani, the father of all Qataris, is returning to Qatar soon," the justice min-

ister, Najeeb Mohammad al-Nuaimi, told al-Khaleej newspaper in the United Arab Emirates.

Qatar announced it had ended a row over billions missing from state coffers since Sheikh Khalifa was toppled by his son, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, in a coup last year. — Reuter.

Artful ruse puts Spanish unknown in the frame

HUNGRY for publicity but shunned by Madrid's galleries, an unknown Spanish artist secretly hung his own paintings at the Prado museum, where it stayed for four days before anyone noticed.

Victor Ruiz Rotzo, aged 39, glued his canvas of a human skull with worms, titled *Afterwards*, on to the wall in front of a crowd of admirers at the Prado.

Ruiz said he thought "it would be good to show with Rembrandt and all those guys". — AP.

museum-goer wondered why it had a metal plaque dating it 20th century when it was in a room of 17th century art.

Ruiz said he thought "it would be good to show with Rembrandt and all those guys". — AP.

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Ex-police chief points finger at Botha

The Truth Commission is told that former ministers ordered atrocities. David Beresford in Johannesburg reports

FORMER members of South Africa's police force yesterday turned on their political masters, accusing ex-president P. W. Botha and two of his cabinet ministers of ordering state violence during the 1980s.

General Johan van der Merwe, a former police chief, told the Truth Commission — which is investigating abuses during the apartheid era — that he received orders from politicians to bomb the headquarters of the Council of Churches, Khotso House, in 1988, and to supply booby-trapped explosives to anti-apartheid activists in 1988.

Gen Van der Merwe gave the instruction to destroy Khotso House, a large office building in central Johannesburg, was given by the then minister of law and order, Adriaan Vlok. "According to Mr Vlok, this instruction had come from President P. W. Botha personally," said the general.

He said that doctored hand-grenades and a limpet mine

were issued to anti-apartheid activists on the orders of Mr Vlok's predecessor, Louis Le Grange. "He was not likely to have taken the decision without the knowledge of the president," he added.

At least nine youths were killed by the booby-traps.

Gen Van der Merwe gave his testimony in support of amnesty applications by five of his former officers who are offering to speak to the commission in an apparent attempt to pre-empt criminal proceedings being brought against them by the Transvaal attorney-general, Jan d'Oliviera.

The officers were part of the notorious "Vlakplaas" police assassination unit led by Brigadier Jack Cronje. The five — the brigadier, a colonel, two captains and a warrant officer — are believed to be linked to about 40 murders



Adriaan Vlok: Former law minister implicated



P. W. Botha: President who was 'behind bombing order'

in the service of the apartheid state.

Brig Cronje appeared on television on Sunday to appeal to former and serving members of the police to confess to the commission.

The five were demanding full disclosure of testimony gathered by the criminal prosecution by the attorney-general, and wanted the commission to subpoena four policemen who have turned state witnesses. The attorney-general's office opposed the application, saying that disclosure would prejudice the criminal proceedings. The committee postponed a decision.

Lawyers for the officers opened their application by reading the following statement on behalf of the men: "As members of the security forces during the time of the struggle, we have decided to come forward in the spirit of this new country, in the spirit of trust in the new government and the Truth Commission in particular, and with a purpose of cleansing our souls from the darkness of the

past, and to let the truth be spoken about our deeds. We will tell all... shed the burden of our conscience which we have carried with us for so long."

Calling on the National Party's former government to "explain certain orders given to us", the five said they "seriously doubt" a statement made by the former president, F. W. de Klerk, to the Truth Commission earlier this year in which he denied that he or his cabinet colleagues ever gave orders for gross violations of human rights.

Gen Van der Merwe read a 31-page submission in which he argued that the security forces had been in a state of war with the African National Congress and that they were driven to extreme measures by the ruthless tactics of the liberation move-

ment, which included the killing of hundreds of policemen.

He said there was widespread reluctance among veterans on both sides to testify. "For this very reason, under the guidance of the deputy president, Thabo Mbeki, various discussions were held between former members of the security branch, the SADF (South African Defence Force), and MK (Umkhonto We Sizwe, the armed wing of the ANCI) in an effort to start a process to convince those concerned to present themselves to the commission so as to be able to place the past in its proper perspective."

Meanwhile, at a hearing in Cape Town yesterday, members of the commission lambasted military commanders for a joint submission on behalf of the old SADF which mentioned only six deaths in 81 pages covering 1960 to 1963.

Nicaragua's right hails poll victory

PHIL GUNSON in Managua

ARNOLDO Alemán, the Liberal Alliance candidate, proclaimed himself president-elect of Nicaragua yesterday, after early returns from Sunday's general election put him ahead of the Sandinistas Daniel Ortega by a substantial margin.

Mr Ortega, however, responded that "the last word has not been said", and claimed that his party's larger sample showed him leading by a percentage point.

He said there were still not enough results for the Liberals to claim victory.

With 35.7 per cent of votes counted, Mr Alemán, a right-wing populist and former mayor of Managua, had a nine-point lead over Mr Ortega, who lost the presidency in 1990 to a multi-party coalition headed by Violeta Chamorro.

The last opinion polls showed the Sandinistas (FSLN) at about 40 per cent, about the same percentage as in 1990.

The Liberals seemed likely to exceed the 45 per cent needed to avoid a second round run-off because none of the minor parties appeared to be winning a significant share of the vote.

The final count for the Liberals is also expected to improve because the early returns were mainly from the cities, where the FSLN is reckoned to be stronger.

Mr Alemán, a lawyer and coffee farmer, told a victory rally at party headquarters that he would receive about 50 per cent of the total vote.

He called on all the parties to participate in a national



Presidential candidate Arnoldo Alemán delivers his victory speech into a microphone held by his youngest son, Carlos, at party headquarters yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW WINNING

News in brief

US envoy quits peace talks
The American special envoy Dennis Ross pulled out of slow-moving Israel-PLO peace talks yesterday, writes Derek Brown in Jerusalem.

The two sides are still deadlocked on Israel's promised withdrawal from Hebron. Israel wants to renegotiate the agreement, signed by the last government. But the Palestinians insist that the deal must be implemented, unchanged.

Base 'destroyed'
Sri Lankan troops attacked a northern rebel "Sea Tiger" naval base by sea and air, killing or wounding 40 guerrillas and destroying the base, military officials said. — Reuter.

Diplomat seized
Tribesmen kidnapped a French diplomat in the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, yesterday and took him to the province of Marib, security sources said. — Reuter.

Philippines ban
The Philippines immigration bureau yesterday banned the

government so that "we can all carry out the changes we are dreaming of in Nicaragua".

He added: "Nicaragua needs all of us to leave the past behind."

Voting passed off peacefully, despite problems with ballot papers, absent officials and power blackouts which caused the late opening of half the country's 9,000 polling stations.

A statement from the European Union's 93-strong observer delegation spoke of an "atmosphere of tranquillity". It added: "The electoral process will contribute to the consolidation of democracy in Nicaragua and the Central American region."

Ms Chamorro, the outgoing president, called the election a "beautiful process" and thanked Nicaraguans for their patience in voting.

"This is what I want, that we may continue to build what we started in 1990," she said, referring to the country's first democratic presidential election. "People wanted to vote."

The secretary-general of the Organisation of American States, César Gaviria, blamed most of the problems on the complicated electoral system.

He added that the procedure had been legitimate and that "everyone should accept these results".

Mr Ortega sounded the only sour note, warning Nicaraguans not to be surprised if a "situation of fraud" was discovered.

It was not immediately clear what sort of fraud he was referring to. Neither party is in government, and the electoral tribunal has been generally praised for its professionalism.

Nobel peace prize winner and East Timorese resistance leader, José Ramos Horta, from entering the country to attend meetings opposed to next month's Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation summit.

Meanwhile, Indonesia denied that it was considering granting partial autonomy to its troubled territory of East Timor. — Agencies.

'Landslide' victory
Albania's ruling Democratic Party claimed a landslide victory in local elections considered a test for the country's democracy. — Reuter.

Kurdish talks
The Iraqi Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani arrived in St. Louis, Turkey, yesterday for talks with a US envoy, Robert Feilstein, on ending fighting in northern Iraq. — Reuter.

Beauty holds key
A Vietnam newspaper has published a picture of the winner of a beauty contest for jailkeepers. Pham Ngoc Tam heads the Women's Association at a jail south-east of Hanoi. — Reuter.

Algiers mayor killed in shootout, say witnesses

AP in Algiers

POLICE set up checkpoints in the Algerian capital yesterday after the mayor was shot dead.

There were conflicting reports about how Ali Boucetta died. The authorities said he was killed by a stray bullet, but witnesses said he died in a shootout between police and Muslim militants.

It confirmed an assassination, it would be a severe blow to the Algerian government, which is trying to bring under control a four-year insurgency by the militants.

Witnesses said Mr Boucetta was killed at midday yesterday when an armed group opened fire on his police entourage as he was being driven through central Algiers.

A French-language radio station, Europe 1, which is monitored in Paris, said 13 Islamic radicals were killed in the shootout.

However, according to the official news agency APS, the authorities claimed Mr Boucetta was hit by a stray bullet as he stood on the balcony of his home. They declined to comment further.

Cherif Rahmani, the special minister in charge of administering Algiers, sent a message of condolence to Mr Boucetta's family in which he

said his death was a "cruel loss".

A resident speaking by telephone from his home in the middle-class district of Telemely said: "There was a huge operation carried out by security forces hunting down gunmen in a neighbourhood at Telemely. We heard several bursts of gunfire."

Queues of cars grew at police checkpoints which had been set up in the early afternoon at the exit of the Casbah, the city's historic district.

Mr Boucetta, like hundreds of other mayors, was appointed by the authorities to replace militant Muslim mayors sacked in late 1992 after their radical Islamic Salvation

Front (FIS) party was banned.

The authorities had accused the militant mayors of turning the country's town halls into "spiders' webs" for Muslim guerrillas after the FIS won control of most councils in local elections in June 1990.

Muslim militants began their insurgency after the government cancelled the second round of national elections in January 1992 which the FIS was expected to win. More than 60,000 people have since been killed in the violence.

Mr Boucetta's death, and a surge in militant attacks, came as the government pre-

pared a referendum for November 28 on changes to Algeria's constitution.

Security forces have arrested a group of Shi'ite Muslims allegedly trying to foment an Iranian-style revolution in Egypt, police officials in Cairo said yesterday.

The crackdown followed a government campaign last month to confiscate Shi'ite books from Cairo shops and stop critical articles in the Egyptian media about the minority Muslims.

Egypt launched a similar campaign of arrests several years ago, but all the Shi'ite detainees were later released for lack of evidence.

Reuters in Kigali

ALMOST 250,000 Rwandan and Burundian Hutu refugees in Zaire have abandoned their 12 camps around Uvira, where the army is battling against Tutsi rebels, and were suspected to be in the northern mountains.

The United Nations said it had started to evacuate humanitarian staff from eastern Zaire and aid agency sources reported that unidentified fighters had entered from Rwanda overnight and attacked government army positions close to Rwandan Hutu refugee camps in the eastern town of Goma.

Paul Stromberg, spokesman for the UN Commissioner for Refugees in Rwanda, said some 221,000 refugees were on the move towards another eastern Zaire town, Bukavu, already cut off from Uvira by the Banyamulenge Tutsi rebels.

But other aid sources said that with Bukavu cut off and fighting in Uvira and general insecurity in neighbouring Cibitoke, the refugees were in the mountains north of Uvira headed for Goma.

Humanitarian officials said there was no movement of refugees from the camps around Goma and insecurity meant that aid workers were keeping to their compounds.

Aid sources said heavy fighting was continuing in and around Uvira, adding that between 4,000 and 5,000 Zaireans had moved into the town from the south, where there was further fighting.

Meanwhile, the Rwandan army denied that fighters had crossed from its territory.

In London, two people were arrested for throwing tomatoes at the motorcade of the Zairean prime minister, Kengo wa Dondo, yesterday. They were among about 30 demonstrators outside the Foreign Office, where Mr Kengo held talks during his four-day official visit.

Taliban accepts provisional truce offer

Jonathan Steele in Kabul

THE prospects of a ceasefire averting a battle for Kabul rose yesterday for the first time since the Taliban takeover, but a wide gap remained on the terms of any deal.

After several rounds of shuttle diplomacy by Pakistan's interior minister, General Nasirullah Babar, a spokesman at the Taliban headquarters in Kandahar said the movement's leadership had provisionally accepted a ceasefire offer from the Uzbek warlord, General

Abdul Rashid Dostam, in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

Syed Mohammad Haqqani said prisoners would have to be exchanged and peace talks should be monitored by a commission comprising six members of the Taliban and six of the opposition.

The apparently open-ended ceasefire offer from Gen Dostam, who has sent tanks and artillery against the Afghan capital, seems to fall short of the conditions laid down by his ally, Ahmed Shah Massoud, the former defence minister. Commander

Massoud's largely Tajik forces have advanced to within 10 miles of the capital, almost completely reversing their retreat three weeks ago. Dr Abdullah, Cmr Massoud's spokesman, told reporters that any ceasefire should lead to immediate talks on Kabul's demilitarisation and the Taliban's withdrawal.

That proposal was brusquely rejected yesterday by Mullah Amir Khan Muttaqi, the Taliban's acting information minister. "In practice, Kabul is demilitarised already," he said. "All military forces are at their bases. The city is controlled by police."

Acknowledging that the Taliban had suffered reverses in recent days, Mullah Muttaqi remained defiant.

He said 6,000 Taliban troops had arrived in the city in the last week and added: "Massoud was pushed back. We are determined to stay here. If the oppressors return to Kabul again, there will be historical destruction. We won't allow them back."

As the ceasefire talks proceed, it is clear the Taliban hope to drive a wedge between Gen Dostam and Cmr

Massoud. The two men were virtually at war for three years and only formed an alliance two weeks ago when the Taliban took Kabul and began to sweep northwards.

Asked to explain the paradox whereby the Taliban prefer to talk to an ex-communist like Gen Dostam rather than an ex-mujahid like Cmr Massoud, the mullah said: "Massoud always breaks his promises. We realise he's not sincere."

The real reason is probably that Gen Dostam's army is better equipped. Cmr Massoud's troops are guerrilla fighters. If the Taliban could do a ceasefire deal with Gen Dostam, Cmr Massoud's chances of capturing Kabul would be severely reduced.

The main question is what the Taliban could offer Gen Dostam in exchange for a ceasefire. The Taliban charter calls for a unified Afghanistan and they would find it hard to concede a de facto division of the country and give the Uzbek warlord a free hand to practice his very loose and non-fundamentalist form of Islam in the north.

Signs of disagreement emerged yesterday between

Dr Norbert Holl, the United Nations special envoy, and Pakistan. Islamabad has been closely involved in supplying the Taliban, and its current diplomacy seems largely geared to preserving Taliban control of Kabul. A Taliban deal would provide Pakistan with secure transport links to Central Asia and the oil and gas fields of the Caspian region.

At a press conference in Kabul, Dr Holl emphasised that he has a broader agenda. "I tell the Taliban Pakistan may produce something in the short term, but other countries also have a role," he said.

No Afghan government could expect international recognition and foreign aid for reconstruction if it violated human rights, he added.

"Article Three of the United Nations charter talks about gender discrimination. I say to them it is my Koran. Whoever controls Afghanistan is bound by the charter, unless they want to walk out of the UN, and nobody would like to see that."

He hoped there would be "a learning process" on the Taliban side.

It's remarkable that so many people think the British higher education system is attractive and accessible enough for them to come and take part.

David Elliott, the British Council's HE director

Education, G2 page 10

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A new mood of moralism

The question is: can anything effective be done?

NO ONE WHO reads Frances Lawrence's powerful plea for a more cohesive society can fail to be moved by its clear moral logic. No one who studies the Catholic bishops' conference's document on social policy can likewise fail to be impressed with its immense sense of collective responsibility. The publication of the two pleas on the same day is a coincidence. But they both speak for a new mood of social moralism which is characteristic of our times and which demands not just words of sympathy but a serious programme of action which, even with the best will in the world, a Conservative government is simply not capable of supplying.

Mrs Lawrence's manifesto could have been written by Tony Blair. It picks up the Labour leader's vocabulary and priorities — civic values, healing a fractured society, mutual responsibility, support for families and schools — and gives them the intensely felt endorsement which can only come from someone who has suffered what she has suffered. The Catholic bishops' document, with its support for a minimum wage, its positive approach to trade unions, its support for a bill of rights and the whole thrust of its title *The Common Good*, is equally clearly more in tune with Labour thinking than with Conservative too.

These twin manifestations of the great collective yearning for a more cohesive society both bear witness to the immense civic and moral damage which our society has suffered. It would be trite to blame all of this on the Conservative government, and banal to believe that the election of a Labour government would magically put back together what has been so sundered. Yet there is a very real sense in which these outpourings are part of the process of a society facing up to what it has become — and examining morally better alternatives.

It is easy to call for a more cohesive society. On the day she became Prime Minister 17 years ago, Margaret Thatcher stood memorably in Downing Street and announced "where there is discord, may we bring harmony". Yet she then proceeded to lead the most socially divisive and destructive government in 20th century Britain. It was not simply that she extolled individualism at the expense of collectivism. It was that, though herself a moralist par excellence, she nevertheless removed the restraints upon a particularly hedonistic form of individualism. As David Marquand argues in an important new essay, "the hedonistic individualism of late Thatcherism is now under challenge from a new form of moral collectivism which, politically, is embodied and articulated by Mr Blair."

The great question which is raised by Mrs Lawrence, the bishops and by Mr Blair is whether anything effective can be done about it. Many of the proposals which they make that are desirable in themselves — such as the teaching of good citizenship in primary schools — will take an excessively long time to bear fruit. Yet what people are demanding is a much more immediate social and moral transformation in which Philip Lawrence does not get stabbed by a teenager, where Jamie Bulger does not get abducted while his mum's back is turned, or where primary school children are not at risk of being massacred by a misfit with a grudge and a gun. These are desperately ambitious demands and exceptionally difficult to satisfy, though as the Snowdrop campaign proves, there is a public appetite for ambitious solutions which in the run-up to a general election no politician can ignore. The words are the easy bit the doing is the harder part.

"The Ideas That Shaped Post-War Britain, ed. Marquand and Seldon, publ. HarperCollins.

Fiddling the figures (part 32)

Yet again the Government is manipulating unemployment

FORGET the moral high ground. We are now talking about counting the number of people without a job. Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, appears to have defeated a long standing proposal from the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke to measure the unemployed in a different way using internationally agreed definitions. Mrs Shephard successfully argued that the cost (£8 million) could not be afforded at a time of financial constraint even though the Chancellor approved. Crocodile tears to that. The real reason was disarmingly crude. Ministers don't like the fact that, using the agreed International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition of unemployment, the jobless total would be 222,000 higher than the Government's own count — with the divergence likely to get worse as the election beckons.

other changes, the official level of unemployment is highly likely to drop from the current level of 2.1 million to under 2 million before the election. If, however, the Government had decided to collect the ILO figures monthly (instead of quarterly as at present) they would be much less likely to drop from 2.26 million in the summer to under 2 million by next spring and are in any case subject to more volatility than the official statistics. This is because some people who are currently "economically inactive" like some married women and men who have given up looking for a job are not measured either by government or ILO figures. If they suddenly started to look for work — perhaps because they felt that falling unemployment might improve their chances of getting a job — then it would boost the number of ILO unemployed (which counts those looking for work) but not the official figures (which only count claimants) without anything having changed in the real world. A sudden upward blip like that is the last thing the Government wants to risk in the months before an election. It is to Kenneth Clarke's credit that his concern for statistical probity (and, doubtless wanting to converge with European standards of measurement) led him to support adoption of the ILO system even though it would have cost "new money" and possible electoral embarrassment. The unemployed, meanwhile, will have to wait until after the election to be properly counted.

Land of the rising sameness

Japan's electors are taking caution to new extremes

WHATEVER happened to the great revolution in Japanese politics? After Sunday's election the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leader Ryutaro Hashimoto is now only a short way below an absolute majority. The enthusiasm which greeted the ousting of the LDP in 1993, after nearly four decades of what amounted to one-party rule, has fizzled out. Yesterday Mr Hashimoto made a ritual apology: his party had not yet regained the voters' "full confidence" and would have to "try even harder." But with 239 seats in parliament (33 up on the last) he is sitting comfortably. He can stick with his former coalition partners or fish in "opposition" waters. The main alternative party New Frontier from which he seeks defectors is led by Ichiro Ozawa, the former LDP machine boss. Mr Hashimoto says he will not rule out anyone as a partner: so much for policies being more important than parties.

So the Japanese voter faces the fifth coalition government since 1993: business is back with the old firm. But it would be a mistake to see the last election as a clarion call for change. Even then the electorate could not quite make up its mind to kick out the corrupt establishment. Over 40 per cent of the voters were undecided till the last moment (this time more than half hesitated). The faltering socialists ruled themselves out by their inept coalition with the LDP. Only the communists offered a real choice, making gains from a low starting point. It is Japan's misfortune that the political mould, clamped in place for so long by the cold war, broke too late for a convincing alternative. A disenchanting electorate has settled for more of the unsatisfactory same. Caution may be a particular feature of Japanese political culture. But where else are voters making bold choices for change?



Letters to the Editor

We need to adopt a better policy

Of sex, balls and Burchill

THE battle for the end of secrecy about adoption has been won (more or less). Felicity Collier is talking about a mopping-up operation (Four parents, one child, October 16). The battle for the end of secrecy about surrogacy has yet to be fought. The crunch will come when the children of "egg donors and/or sperm mixed up in syringes" want to find out about their biological parents.

No preparations are being made for the children of such conceptions to find out their biological origins, to meet their egg-donor mothers, their half-siblings or their sperm-donor fathers, or to deal with and to fund the therapy/counselling needs that will emerge. It's not as if we don't have early warning of this psychological time bomb (set to explode in the first two decades of the 21st century).

I suggest that the agencies now bringing adopted children into contact with their biological parents prepare to do the same with the children of egg-donor and/or mixed sperm conceptions (for want of a new term). Eileen Marise Lavin, 35 Templar House, London NW2 3TD.

other people's children but of them losing their own. (Prof) Chris Barton, Law School, Staffordshire University, Leek Road, Stoke-on-Trent S14 2DF.

MOST OF US will share in the happiness of Clare Short and her son, reunited 31 years after his adoption (Short finds a new model role, October 16). However, I have neither seen nor heard one word about the feelings of the adoptive parents. As an adoptive father, I hope that I would be big enough to be happy if either of my grown-up children ever chose, successfully, to exercise their right to trace their natural parents. My wife and I would be pretty devastated, however, if they chose not to recognise the part we have tried to play in their development. Name and address supplied.

THE Guardian described Clare Short as Toby Graham's "real" mother. I found myself thinking of his — "unreal" — adoptive mother who must have changed his nappies, endured sleepless nights during teething and illness and worried herself through the problems of school. Had she held fast and hopeful but

wary during the traumas of adolescence? And his university years, did they bring the realisation that ties are being loosened as well as the inevitable financial pressures? Did his success fill her with pleasure and even a little pride that she might have contributed to it?

Be careful, Guardian, you read on the lives of us "unreal" mothers who care so much for our beloved adopted children but cannot display our devotion so blatantly. Eileen Parrywell, 8 Kingswood Close, Whetstone, London N20 9PX.

FOR Clare Short, the wait is over. Sadly, however, if Toby Graham had not searched for her, she would still be suffering her painful loss in silence, as are many other birth parents. The Contact Register is only of limited value as so few know of its existence. Is it not time that the law concerning contact between adults after adoption is revised to enable the birth parent to have identifying information once the adoptee is 18 or possibly 25? Sue Greenwood, 1 Kevin Avenue, Royton, Oldham OL2 6AH.

JULIE BURCHILL writes "Like a pub bore. On Paul Gascoigne and domestic violence: sportsmen (all of them apparently) "consider violence against women acceptable" because they are "crap at sex" and "basically homosexual". Her analysis of the appalling repression in Afghanistan is limited to an indignant assertion that the Taliban's attacks on women are being played down in "some quarters".

I can't help feeling that Ms Burchill keeps some pretty bizarre company if her male acquaintances feel that misogyny is somehow less unacceptable than racism; but that's her problem, not mine. Andrzej Jezewski, Limburgstr 16, 81539 Munich, Germany.

DURING 30 years' work as a child and family psychiatrist in child-guidance clinics, I frequently encountered boys who adored football to the exclusion of almost everything else, were much admired by their peers for their football skills, were much feared as bullies, were incapable of reading, and sold their underpants on a regular basis. I wonder if Cozza had a similar childhood? Name and address supplied.

Please include a full postal address and a telephone number. We may edit letters; shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

Media matters

THE Sport newspaper clearly does not belong on the newsagent's top shelf (The sport of misogyny, October 16; Letters, October 18). A paper full of stories of rape and violence against women has nothing in common with top shelf magazines, which do not contain the slightest hint of such abuse. It does, however, have a great deal in common with ordinary newspapers, differing only in the degree of emphasis it gives to such stories.

It is not part of the strange British attitude towards sex that, when a newspaper's taste for shocking stories of sex and violence make it an unacceptable caricature of the popular press, we seek to get it re-classified as "pornography" (which it is not) as if this would justify its condemnation? On May 15 1991, Pope John XIII set out in an encyclical the Church's position on social matters. It was never widely publicised. What Cardinal Hume has done is to take it to the attention of the faithful. Simone Crawley, 39 Bridge Lane, Stockport SK7 3AL.

WHO does Max Clifford think he's fooling other than the Guardian (Maximum anger, October 21)? As any experienced publicist knows, the most efficient and controlled way of exploiting a photo-opportunity is to invite only the Press Association. Of course he didn't want other photographers at the funeral of Mandy Allwood's babies. Had he allowed them access, the images that would have emerged would have been a media scum which he so strenuously denies encouraging. Lynne Kirwin, Lynne Kirwin Associates, 21 Buckham Street, London WC2N 6EF.

YOUR correspondent John Bell (Letters, October 19) has been watching too many cheap videos. Air pistols are limited, by law and by their construction, to a power level that will not break the skin. Alan Fairhurst, 25 Church Lane, Prestwich, Manchester M25 1AJ.

TO those who say the campaign against handguns (Letters, October 19): my late wife lost the sight of an eye due to the action of an idiot with an airgun. Richard Reynolds, 5 Stanford Road, Wolverhampton WV2 4NF.

IN your leading article (October 21), you rightly insist on some of the negative reasons for being wary of religious commitment in politics. But you wrongly ignore all the positive reasons for being aware of non-religious commitment in politics. Idealism and realism, ethics and morality, decency and fairness, welfare and justice, law and order — all these are central not only to the Judeo-Christian but also to the secular humanist tradition, and the latter has inspired many of the best think-

Asylum lunacy

AN asylum-seeker client of Aours lost his income support and housing benefit when the Government brought in Peter Lilley's draconian regulations in February. He could not pay his rent so he lost his accommodation. When the regulations were declared unlawful by the Court of Appeal in June, our client regained his benefit. The effect of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 was to reintroduce the regulations in July. Our client lost his benefits and his accommodation again.

We have just heard that he has won his original appeal (submitted in March but heard in October). This means he should regain his benefits; but as he is now homeless, there is no way we, the DSS, or the Home Office can find him and tell him. Is this the treatment Parliament intended for someone who has fled from persecution? Steve Scully, Scudamore Osman Solicitors, Broadway Chambers, Hammersmith Broadway, London W6 7AF.

Our Father which art in SW1

IT is not fair to present the social teaching of the Catholic Church as political support for the Labour Party (Catholic Church "backs Blair", October 19). The similarity is purely coincidental. All through its history, the Catholic Church has urged the rich to support the poor. On May 15 1991, Pope John XIII set out in an encyclical the Church's position on social matters. It was never widely publicised. What Cardinal Hume has done is to take it to the attention of the faithful. Simone Crawley, 39 Bridge Lane, Stockport SK7 3AL.

WHEN bishops collectively and officially dabble with party politics, which is clearly beyond their competence, and when parishes are to be turned into crypto-socialist discussion groups for weeks on end, it is time for their congregations to head for the door. I used to think the traditionalist Catholics extreme in their opinion of how the mainstream Roman Catholic Church had lost its way; but it looks like they were right after all. Richard Exames, 24 East Downs Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 2LQ.

IN the current elections for the Fabian Society executive, I wedded out all candidates who boast of their Christianity and then made my choice. I want to see people in politics working for democracy, not theology. What shall I do in a general election? Anne Corbett, 95 Coleherne Court, London SW5 0ED.

MESSRS Ashdown, Blair and Major pray to God. Why does God send them different messages? Aneurin Richards, Cadlan, Treceilyn, Gwent NP1 5GA.

A Country Diary

SOMERSET: Each day, bursts of wind blow larger holes in screens of foliage. We see bits of sky that have been hidden since the spring and cannot rake fast enough to keep up with the fall of red and yellow leaves. And there are other familiar marks of autumn. The carnival placard is up again at the roundabout outside Wincanton. Throughout the summer, reversing the natural cycle, people have been hibernating in barns and school halls, refurbishing carnival floats with fantastic designs, devising new themes, sewing on sequins and rehearsing tableaux, so that now, each town in turn, can transform itself on one Saturday night for a glorious mardi gras. Sherborne, six miles away in Dorset, has its Pack Monday Fair. I thought the name derived from the pack horses with which travelling pedlars and quacks arrived like Autochrycus to scatter nostrums and knick-knacks amongst the peasantry, so I went early on a damp Monday to see what happens nowadays. There were traders' stalls, generators throbbling, men stretching tarpaulins and plastic sheets against the drizzle, and a few early customers peering at knitwear, burgers, cutlery, watches and mobile phones. One medieval touch was the stall selling bright velvet lesters and harlequin hats. Cheap Street winds down towards the Abbey where I found a copy of *Sherborne Scenes* with an article about the origin of the fair. A popular local myth claims the fair was founded to rebuild the nave instituted this fair to celebrate the day when the work was completed and the workers packed to leave. This has, it seems, no foundation in fact. But it was at Michaelmas fairs that agricultural workers assembled, wearing the smocks of their trades, and hoped to be hired for the season. If a man was chosen, he made a "pact" or contract with the employer. The great gathering naturally attracted traders and entertainers and in time developed into the Pack Fair.

JOHN VALLEYS

Diary Matthew Norman

THE playwright Edward Bond, best known for the baby-sitting scene in his 1965 opus Saved, is interviewed about his new play, In The Company Of Men, in the New Statesman. But there is a twist. Mr Bond loathes journalists with such venom that he cannot bring himself to speak with them... and so, in an eerie reversal of roles, the New Statesman sends a reporter to interview him. The reporter is a friend of Bond's, Michael Bogdanov; in other words, Ms Cummings whispered her question to Mr Bogdanov, who spoke it to Mr Bond, who answered starting with Ms Cummings. Mr Bond is currently directing his play for previews at the RSC, and we hope he will find the process informative: asked by Ms Cummings, via Mr Bogdanov, why the optimism in his play might be, Mr Bond replied: "I don't know what the play is about yet. I may begin to understand by watching the actors at work."

THE Diary is delighted to see its old friend Adela Bottomley back in the news. The last time we met Adela, in August, she was on the annual Bolshoi Monday night holiday on the Isle of Wight, with the Seaview Regatta, she won a greasy-pole competition (the Toby Bonham Challenge Cup), and pipped her cousin Charity Garnett in a diving contest, despite the apparent handicap of wearing a sack of Anderson's bread. How remote those happy, innocent days seem now. Adela, 14, was sent home last week, along with 12 others, from her Canterbury school, for under-age drinking. What her parents think about this remains a mystery, but the Diary salutes Adela, and throws its hat high. As an old family friend put it yesterday, "With a couple of fruitcakes like those for parents, it's a miracle she's a normal girl. She's great."

CONTROVERSY rages in Inside Time, the prisoner's newspaper, following the publication of a letter in which Rose West declared her innocence. "In more than a decade as a lifer, I have heard many claims of innocence, but the one that stands out as the most ludicrous," writes Harold Gerrard of HMP Erlestoke. "I have just one message for Monster West — do your bird!"

THAT classic hindrance to amateur football, the lack of a referee, has caused mayhem in south London. Such is the ref shortage in the Southern Olympic League that in great demand is a 76-year-old man who, according to Tom Smithies of Wandsworth Borough FC, "spends the whole game parked in the centre circle wrapped in a parka, blowing his whistle randomly". Fearful for his health, his wife's stock response to a request for his services is: "Sorry, he can't be referee, he died on Tuesday." Wandsworth knows the play, but rivals Northborough do not, and so it was that on the Saturday after a Northborough official called to book the old boy, a minute's silence was held before all games in the league. Mourning lasted a week, ending only when he shuffled in the following Saturday, wondering "if anybody needs a ref".

MORE news of Kenny Ball and his Jazzmen (and of his buddy Ackar Bilko) tomorrow.

SUSPICION mounts that Taki-George, the Cypriot wine waiter, may be planning an imminent return to his homeland. D'Aguiar writes from west London, enclosing a photograph taken in a village called Arbos on a recent holiday in Cyprus. On the side of an old stone building is a sign reading: "Taki's Barber Shop". The Sleepy Sunday woman (his employer) who picked up the phone yesterday affected ignorance, and refused to release T-G from his duties to come to the phone. With good reasons in such a short supply, her reluctance is understandable, but she must not hope to stand between T-G and his scissors for ever.

OFFICIAL TICKET

Let us pray for all the politicians

Commentary Hugo Young

TRUE Christianity asserts some very tough priorities. It's an easy faith to pledge, but not an easy code to follow. If we go back to basics, Christ's teachings are uncomfortable for all who have great power and even a small amount of wealth. The serious Christian has to judge his own conduct by how much he really observes a preference for the poor over the rich, and for the weak over the powerful. Jesus Christ was a revolutionary in his time, and those of us who call ourselves Christian can never forget it. Selflessness almost always eludes us. In many ways, I'm an appalling failure as a Christian because, to be honest, I don't want badly enough to succeed.

This is just as true of most politicians, but with a difference. They are in a position to link faith with action and, when pressed, often insist they're keen to do so. Whatever their party, they are hor-

rified to have it said that any of their policies are un-Christian. Their Christianity, like mine, is probably less fierce, less all-consuming, than it should be, but they find it necessary to call their belief, however diluted, in aid. Especially when elections are in the offing, politicians' varied attesting to belief seems to find a ready publisher. This year's version (Baker In Politics, Hodder £7.99) elicits the new fact that John Major says his prayers, and the rather less surprising claim of every politician interviewed to believe in Christian "values".

I think what they mostly mean is not Christian values but ethical principles. Christianity is altogether too terrifying a mentor. A rich Christian country would not tolerate the giving of less than 0.5 per cent of national income to the poor of the third world. I see no version of Christianity that could be other than grossly violated by such a statistic. A rich Christian country that decided charity began at home would nevertheless decline to tolerate the discrepancies of wealth between rich and poor which have grown with such startling consistency over the last 17 years. A so-called Christian policy, if that was its record, would have to be regarded as a total failure.

Politicians, however, don't

think like that, and for a simple reason. In this regard, they are not leaders but followers. They reflect the society that has hoisted them to the top. And British society, while it pays lip-service in all sincerity to its Christian heritage, has not produced at this stage in history a Christian country. The words may be there, but the meaning is empty. The aspirations are fervent, but they're not supported by policy choices. In pretty well every policy choice by every party, the Christian dimension — which can be summed up, in the end, as the preferential option for the poor — is, if it exists at all, more a grudging afterthought than a guiding principle: not because the party is wicked, but because that seems to be what most voters want.

This is the ground, ripe for invasion, that the Catholic bishops of England and Wales tried breaking into yesterday. The omens were no better for them than for the politicians. For they too are, in their way, politicians. They're conscious of their status as alien religionists, and ever wary of the risks of apparently intervening in political controversy. A document on social teaching, which had to enlist the support of 50 middle-to-old-aged, cautious, conservative, mostly apolitical prelates of the Church, seemed

unlikely to produce a serious challenge to the politicians' own lack of Christian, or even ethical, ambition. Yet that is what their paper, surprisingly, does. Vying to outbid each other in fervour, the political leaders have had no difficulty endorsing the social crusade of Mrs Lawrence, whose husband was murdered outside his own school. But that's an easy trick, demanding no hard choices. The Catholic bishops' analysis goes well beyond it. Their language is polite, but their message is quite unrelenting: there's a rotteness in society, and we will tell you how a Christian should set about restoring it to health.

They plunge directly into economics, openly attacking the "ideology of consumerism" and the supremacy of the market principle. They don't reject markets, but insist they have to be curbed. They oppose the growing gap between the very wealthy and the poor, and categorically reject the argument from conservatism that has prevailed for many years which says that the wealth of the few is the only way of diminishing the poverty of the many.

THE bishops' document is an unflinching manifesto against the god of liberal, materialistic individualism. Materialism, it says, is not enough. The nation's real crisis is not economic, but moral and spiritual: and politicians mystified that the feel-good factor has not improved in step with economic performance may find the answer in their own cynicism on this point.

What the bishops detect is not only a deteriorating national mood, and a crisis in moral and economic security, but some of the reasons why this has come about: "a weak-

ening of the sense of mutual responsibility and a decline in the spirit of solidarity". This is a very Catholic view, as the Tories will be quick to say. Catholic social teaching, which has always emphasised solidarity, has been to how low before the supposedly unbridled power of market economics. On the other hand, Tories who do insist they're Christian have a case to answer. What the bishops are saying is not that mantras about wealth-creation are mistaken, but that the British status quo, in the fruit of 17 years of modern Conservative, disbelieves principles which have lost sight of even a diluted form of Christian principle. They have gone too far. The moral infirmity of politicians, one might say, and their reluctance to contest their own economic determinism, has produced a national crisis.

It would be easy to conclude from this that the bishops are guiding their flock towards a Labour vote. Some of the Blair buzz-words, like "community" and "social responsibility", feature plentifully. But I think this entirely diminishes what the document, The Common Good, is trying to say. When it states that "public life needs rescuing from utilitarian expediency and the pursuit of self-interest", it is saying something Labour would find hard to say and mean. Labour accepts the materialism of the hour. Its leader is a Christian, maybe a more serious one than any prime minister this century. But there are strict limits to how far he's prepared to take it. He can't lead the country into a bit of selflessness. The bishops can, but seldom do. Their update of social teaching acquires in much that is full of self-righteousness. He wants us to be healthy both in mind and in body.

I am not at all sure why we should celebrate the end of what the BBC has called "The People's Century". (Most people know anyway that the millennium should begin on the year 2001, not 2000, but hold your letters: that is neither here nor there.) Virginia Bottomley, who has been known to burst into song, seems determined that we should enjoy ourselves. She would not shut down the people's telly test the underclass, bored out of their tiny minds, take up alternative pleasures of an anti-social nature.

A silent screen (including Sky) would not meet with the approval of Michael Howard, whose doughty fight against crime can only succeed for as long as the populace is safe at home watching soap, and not beating old ladies over the head in search of their national assistance. Why should the pubs flourish in consequence of a silent screen?

Perhaps I could make some suggestions as how best to celebrate the end of the 30th century? Best of all would be to ignore it totally, as we have suffered from every catastrophe known to man save for the Black Death, and not fall in with the authorities in their desperate attempt to combine a Diamond Jubilee with the Relief of Mafeking. Why should those of us who have reached the age of discretion, dance in the streets? Will the fountains run with wine? But Nanny knows best, and I have no doubt that Virginia has pleasures in store up her puffed sleeves.

Why not persuade Norman Tebbit to enter a monastery, preferably a silent order? He should be joined by Bill (Nametape) Cash, Alastair McAlpine, Sir Teddy Taylor, Steve Norris and Sir James Goldsmith. Edwina Currie, Emma Nicholson and Sarah Keays would put down their pens. Rupert Murdoch might take out Brazilian national-

old habits of mind die slowly. The reflex sneer — which she also attacks — is lodged so deeply that even the most reasonable of us finds oneself gagging at the idea of actually praising the good work that teachers do. Teachers have been an object of contempt among parents for so long that it is barely surprising that raucous bullet-headed school leavers without the slightest respect for authority, it was a matter of time before one of them pulled a combat knife and stabbed a headmaster through the heart.

Mrs Lawrence is talking about the prevalent attitudes in our national consciousness. These are extremely difficult to reform when the voices at the top have for so long been insistently fostering ideas of suspicion and selfishness. This is to say nothing of the way in which mass-circulation newspapers have contributed by undermining respect for institutional authority.

But these things are now our responsibility. Just because Mrs Thatcher's government and its friends on the Sun played to some of the country's worst instincts, there is no reason why we should not go in for a little personal revision. Mr Major has, and whatever one thinks of his government, there is not a shred of the old socialist ethic in him. As I said at the beginning, Mrs Lawrence's is not a political manifesto. Certainly she makes suggestions about civic values, about the ban on combat knives and the raising of the status of teachers and police officers, some of which can be usefully encouraged by legislation. But the heart of her vision — indeed, the heart of the debate which began with the murder of James Bulger and developed with Dunblane — involves a question. It is: how do we reconcile public opinion with public attitudes, that is to say the way we actually think and behave?

Public opinion agrees absolutely with Mrs Lawrence. It is concerned that children should walk to school along streets which are safe, that their minds should not be blighted by the "drive-thru" McDonald's morality of the mass media, and that they should be brought up to understand their duties to society. Public attitudes, on the other hand, suggests that we are careless of these values and that we are simply unwilling to make the effort to change. We say we believe one thing, but when it comes down to it we will continue to act as we have for the last two decades.

This accounted for Mrs Thatcher's great success at election time, for she understood the mean side of the British character: and she didn't mind being open about it. Mr Major and Mr Blair would never be so obvious; but they must still take into consideration the strange dissonance between our convictions and desires. And before we all complacently imagine that things are going to be better now that Frances Lawrence has spoken, we should too.

Dance to the music of the millennium



Julian Critchley

JOHN BUTCHER, an obscure Conservative MP, untainted by scandal, has suggested that we celebrate the millennium by closing down the telly for five days. I understand that Mr Butcher has just returned from a retreat in the Midlands, and, rather like those of us who have ever been to a health farm in order to lose weight, is full of self-righteousness. He wants us to be healthy both in mind and in body.

I am not at all sure why we should celebrate the end of what the BBC has called "The People's Century". (Most people know anyway that the millennium should begin on the year 2001, not 2000, but hold your letters: that is neither here nor there.) Virginia Bottomley, who has been known to burst into song, seems determined that we should enjoy ourselves. She would not shut down the people's telly test the underclass, bored out of their tiny minds, take up alternative pleasures of an anti-social nature.

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ity, Andrew Neil lies down with Sir Peregrine Worsthorne, and Ted Heath with Leahy. John Major would cease from worrying about class, while Tony Blair would take over the title role in "Healthlife" from Sir Cliff Richard.

If there is to be a self-denying ordinance let it apply to the British press, long recognised as the best in the world. The Sun would set, safe in the knowledge that for five days at least, it would not fall for some expensive confidence trick. Christopher Booker of the Sunday Telegraph would cease from frightening the kiddies with tales of the wicked bureaucrats of Brussels. Matthew Parris would enjoy a well-earned rest, and the teenage leader-writers of our great newspapers would end their ceaseless striving for something interesting to say. For the better part of a week there would be no public mention of DI or Fergie; peace, perfect peace.

Douglas Hogg has already given us bread, and now Mrs Bottomley is to lay on circus. But it is John Butcher who worries me most. He served for a short time in government. Why should he now return to haunt us when he would be better employed asleep upon the Government backbenches? There are few enough Tory MPs as it is who can be relied on in all weathers to do the decent thing.

Mr Butcher has said — ex cathedra — that "part of the celebrations should permit contemplation, a communing with previous generations, and an opportunity for each individual to take stock". We are incapable of contemplation, not even of our navel, and as for communing with previous generations, what have we in common with the Victorian Divines, William Ewart Gladstone and Florence Nightingale?

NOR have I the slightest wish "to take stock". Come the millennium I will send out for a video of Ian McKellen's Richard III, which is surely the film of the year, and dance with my partner to the strains of Marlowe set to rag-time: "Come live with me and be my Love." And sucks to the likes of Johnny Butcher. As Harold Macmillan once said: "If the people want a moral lead, let them listen to their bishops." Not to their backbenches.

I suspect that Mr Butcher is in league with the makers of jigsaw puzzles, Monopoly and bridge. The best that can be said for him is that he is secretly in favour of conversation. But what on earth would most of us find to talk about?

Julian Critchley is the Conservative MP for Aldershot. Owing to ill health, he will not be standing at the general election

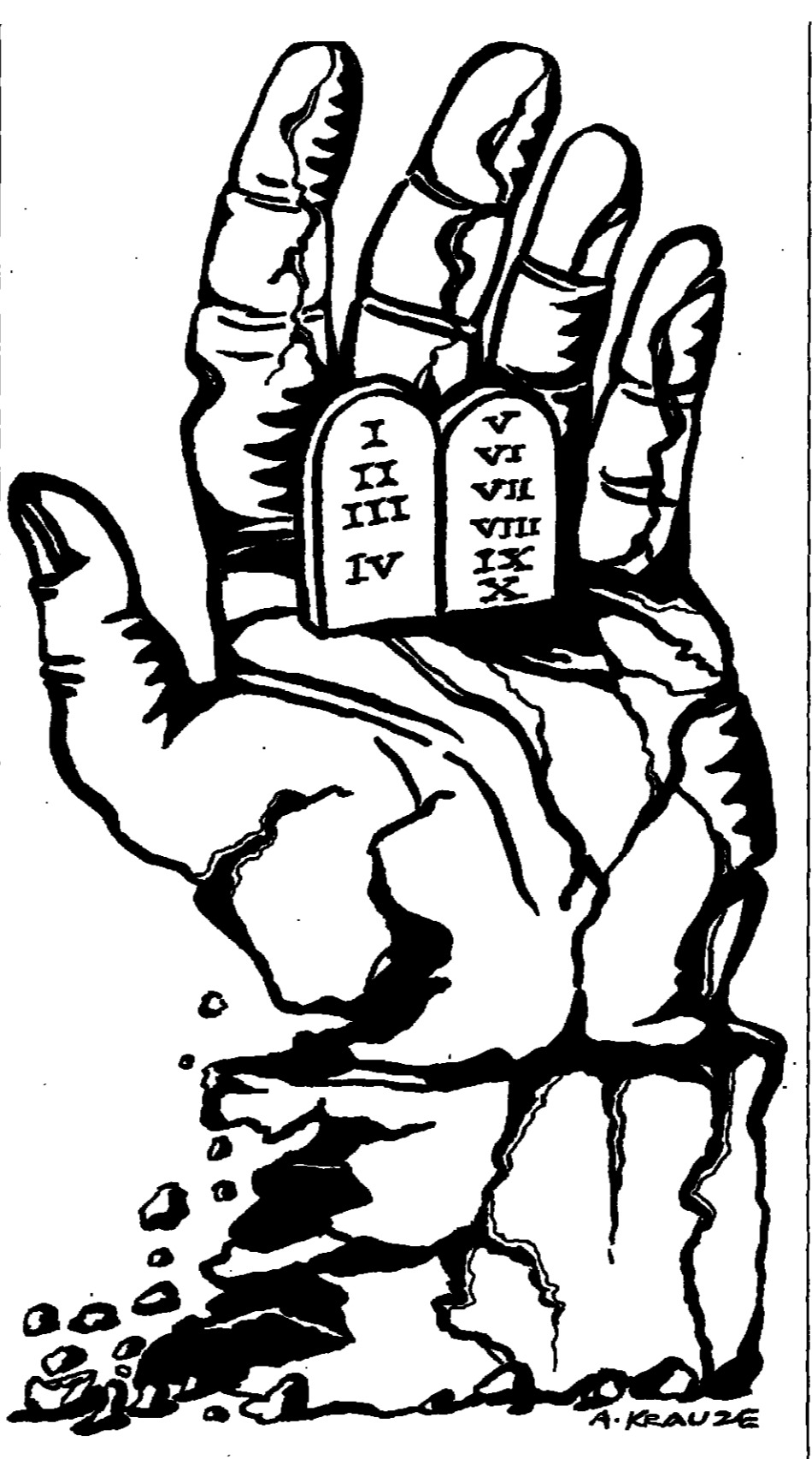
We may strive to do better, to value and support the sort of society advocated by Frances Lawrence, but Henry Porter doubts whether we have the necessary moral fibre

The nation we deserve

NOBODY will disagree with Frances Lawrence's manifesto for the ethical renewal of Britain. No politician or commentator will argue with what she has to say now that Philip Lawrence's murderer has been locked away. Indeed, in the very short space of time since Mrs Lawrence has addressed the problems of British society she has achieved a remarkable unanimity. That is precisely why one fears that her gentle sense of purpose will in the end be thwarted.

The ethical decline of Britain is no longer an issue; rather, it is accepted as a standard observation, made as easily by Tony Blair as it is by John Major. They agree that something basic has gone wrong during the last two to three decades, that violence should be limited, and that our young should be inculcated with civic values. The analysis is universal, the measures for solving the problem go undisputed. And that is what is worrying.

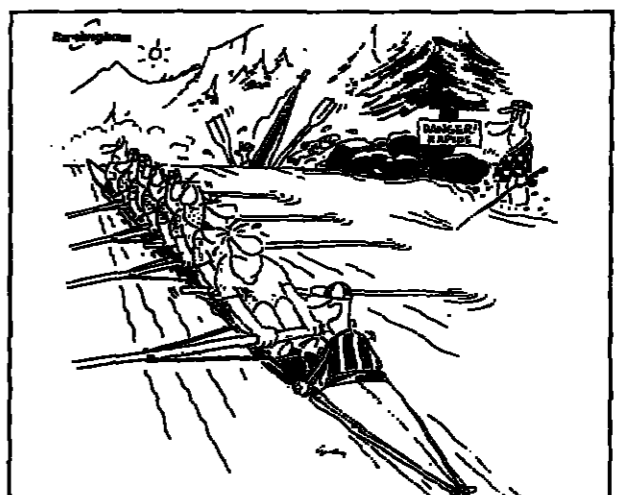
Politicians are attracted to ground where they can dispute each other's statements. In an election year, consensus is desirable to neither party leader, for to agree is also to neutralise part of your case. So the parties tacitly coordinate a shift down the agenda to an item like the economy, or the health service, or Europe, where each can strut the hidden workings of each individual's moral centre. They cannot make us energise the Parent-Teachers Association, spend more time reading with our children, or set examples of selflessness and honesty. These are things that we have to do for ourselves, and if there is one lesson that comes from Mrs Lawrence's expression of dismay it is that we have lost the ability to criticise and make the necessary adjustments in our own behaviour.



tone, which they have begun to do by supporting her manifesto. We may say that they are merely twirling on the electoral catwalk, but what does this matter if they actually effect a change? There is, however, a long way to go before they can reduce the effect of the years of Thatcherism, in which it was made plain by steady implication (and by Mrs Thatcher) that there was no such thing as society; just individuals striving after their own tiny goals of house-ownership, a holiday in the sun and shareholding in a newly privatised utility. We were to be self-sufficient and fundamen-

tally wary of all institutions, which by extension meant any servant of the state or the local authority. These people, we were told, were living off public money; they should be made to grasp the beauty and wisdom of market forces, irrespective of the toll on the quality of their service. It was an extraordinarily corrosive period, which Lady Thatcher has now tried to revise in the second part of her memoirs, The Path To Power. But the fact of the matter is that the contempt control. We came to ridicule men like Philip Lawrence and Ron Taylor, the headmaster of Dunblane Primary School,

for their failure to be compelled by the profit motive. Never for one moment did we consider them capable of the heroism and steadfastness that both men displayed in the last 12 months. Teachers were not heroes: they were underpaid losers who constantly wanted to waste our money on new equipment. Frances Lawrence has addressed herself to this in particular, when she says: "I would like to see celebration of the many wonderful teachers that we have in our schools and a greater awareness of what some of them have achieved." Surely none of us can disagree with this; and yet the



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10 OBITUARIES

Bill Bedford

Jumping jet flash

THIRTY-SIX years ago today, Bill Bedford, who has died aged 75, carried out the first tethered hovering tests of the Hawker P1127 prototype, XP831, at Dunsfold aerodrome near Guildford. The P1127 was to become the Harrier jump-jet, the unique vertical take-off fighter-bomber which has been sold worldwide, and, in its later variants, remains technologically almost unchanged to this day.

The industry has a phrase for men like Bill Bedford — he was a 'total aviation person'

employ it, he could wield a devastating charm. He was at his best in front of the camera and, on such occasions, he never failed to extract the maximum publicity for the relevant aeroplane or cause. Given the technical, commercial, political and operational doubts that sur-

rounded the idea of a vertically-landing jet fighter in the 1960s, Bedford's talent for publicity was vital. Educated at Loughborough College School, Bedford went on to an electrical engineering apprenticeship at Blackburn starting before joining the Royal Air Force in 1940. During the second world war he flew Hawker Hurricanes — fighters which came from the same design team that was to develop the Harrier, becoming a flying instructor in 1945.



Reach for the sky... Bill Bedford (right) celebrates the 25th anniversary of the first landing of his Harrier prototype on the aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal

He worked on the subsonic Sea Hawk naval jet fighter and on the Hunter, the principal RAF fighter of the 1950s and early 1960s. In the latter aircraft Bedford broke several records, including the London-Rome and point-to-point world speed records. In 1960 he succeeded Neville Duke as Hawker's chief test

and flew into a new era. In the years that followed the aircraft went into service with the RAF, the RN, the United States Marine Corps, the Spanish, Indian, Italian and, most recently, Thai navies and, in later versions, was built by McDonnell Douglas in the US. The aircraft even

started in the 1985 Arnold Schwarzenegger film True Lies. Today's Harrier pilots would be horrified if they knew just how tricky that early prototype was in 1963, but while Bill Bedford had some crashes — and ejected from 200 feet on one occasion

— he remained unscathed. The industry has a phrase for men like Bill Bedford — "total aviation person". At different stages in his career he successfully operated between the extremes of old-fashioned suck-it-and-see pioneering pilot and wise counsellor of the modern generation. After his stint as sales manager, he became British Aerospace's divisional marketing manager and, from 1983 to 1986, Base's South-east Asian regional executive. He was passionately interested in airshow display safety and wrote and spoke extensively on the subject.

He was also an accomplished glider pilot. He held eight records, including the national distance — 287 miles — and altitude records of 21,340 feet. His many awards included the Air Force Cross in 1945 and the Order of the British Empire in 1961, soon after his India service. He held the Mary and his son Peter.

John Farley
Alfred William (Bill) Bedford, test pilot, born November 16, 1920; died October 20, 1996

Bernard Frank

Master of the Orient

THOUSANDS of people are currently pouring into the Grand Palais in Paris to view an exhibition of 50 ancient Buddhist sculptures from Edo-kuji temple in Nara, a city founded in 710 AD on the model of the Chinese capital, Chang-an. The sculptures are nearly all classed as "national treasures" or "important cultural properties" and the Japanese authorities have taken a great risk in allowing them to appear outside Japan.



Bernard Frank... he died murmuring a Buddhist sutra

leisurely excursion round some of the finest examples of Parisian architecture. At the main stop stands the Musée Guimet, a magnificent collection of oriental arts, whose exhaustive, scholarly catalogue was compiled by Dr Frank, who had assembled the galleries displaying the Buddhist pantheon from China and Japan.

One of the occasions on which I remember him best was at a reading of traditional classic waka by that poetic style's guardians, the Resel family from Kyoto, in the Musée Guimet in 1983. The waka, also known as tanka, is a lyrical verse of 31 syllables which today is divided into five lines of 5-7-5-7-7 syllables. The form was, for a while, rejected by most modern poets as unsuited to themes from contemporary life. But in the last 50 years, there has been a revival of the form, strictly composed still, but embracing every subject under the sun. This reading was a *kikkō* or "offering in petition for skill in the arts, especially poetry". The annual ceremony of New Year poem recitations at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo is directed by the head of this ancient family of poets, one of whose waka appears in *Miyabi* (Elegant Courtly Refinement), and the catalogue of the performance and its accompanying exhibition, compiled by Bernard Frank, who translated a selection of the waka by Tamehito Reizei.

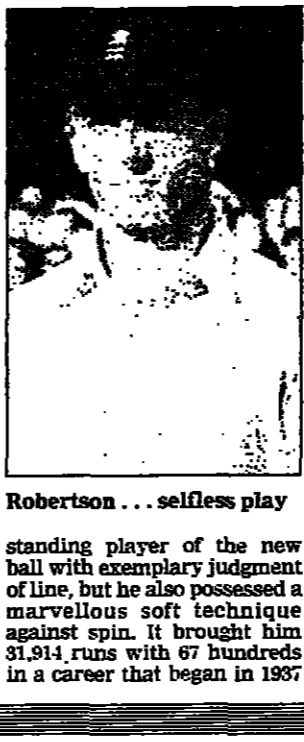
The boat departing has made a vow to return in the coming year. The sound of oars grows fainter under the skies now dawning.
Bernard Frank was such a conscientious professor. He spent most of his time preparing his lectures and it is to be hoped that the essays he wrote for obscure scholarly journals may one day be collected. His writing has elegance and charm as well as authority. It is said he died murmuring a Buddhist sutra. A memorial mass was said for him at the church of Saint-Pierre de Neuilly, Paris. I am sure that in Japan there were candles and sticks of incense burning for the repose of his soul in the temples and the family altars of his many friends in that land.

Jack Robertson

The quiet man of county cricket

JACK Robertson, who has died aged 79, was a batsman in the wrong place at the wrong time. A contemporary of Len Hutton and Cyril Washbrook, and Middlesex county colleague of the terrible Lord's, he was a quiet, selfless player who scored 2,760, with the help of a dozen centuries. Four years later, he exceeded that with his sixth Test innings, he made 133, while on his home territory at Lord's, in 1949, he replaced the injured Washbrook and scored 121 against New Zealand. He never played a home Test again.

Robertson was an integral component of the brilliant Middlesex batting side of the late 1940s. While Compton's



Robertson... selfless play

and lasted until 1969, when he retired to coach Middlesex. On July 23, 1949, in the aftermath of his Test century at Lord's and the disappointment of his subsequent omission from the side, Robertson touched heights that no other Middlesex batsman before or since has managed. With Compton and Edrich both on Test duty at Old Trafford, Middlesex travelled to New Road to play Worcestershire, then leading the championship table. George Mann won the toss for the visitors, and despite the early loss of his opening partner Brown for three, Robertson utterly dominated the proceedings for the next six and a half hours, hitting two sixes and 39 fours in an unbeaten innings of 331, the fourth highest number of runs ever scored in a day's play, and a record for his county.

Robertson was a standing player of the new ball with exemplary judgment of line, but he also possessed a marvellous soft technique against spin. It brought him 31,914 runs with 67 hundreds in a career that began in 1937

that took them to the top of the table and eventually to a share of the title with Yorkshire. After his innings, 50 he was found of telling, Robertson went to his car and discovered a flat tyre. Needing help, and with none of his own colleagues to hand, he stood on his considerable dignity and approached the opposition, only to receive the shortest of shrift.
It was Robertson, playing for the Army against the RAF at Lord's in 1950, who was the central figure in one of the most evocative of wartime sporting photographs, lying prone at the crease as a doobie bug ceased its chugging overhead and began its descent. Robertson resumed his innings by stepping into the crease and striking a six into the pavilion. Even then he had style.

Jack Robertson, cricketer, born February 22, 1917; died October 12, 1996

Nic Flessati

Exploring television's new horizons

NIC Flessati, who has died of a brain tumour aged 68, spent the whole of his working life at the BBC. He produced about a dozen Horizon films, including ones on ear, heart transplants, kidney disease, mental diseases and electronic warfare. His *What Time is your Body?* on Circadian rhythms won a 1973 Bafta nomination but he regarded *Who Built Stonehenge?* as the best programme he ever made. A tough and agile intellect, together with a fine sense of humour, made him delightfully stimulating company.



Flessati... well-told stories

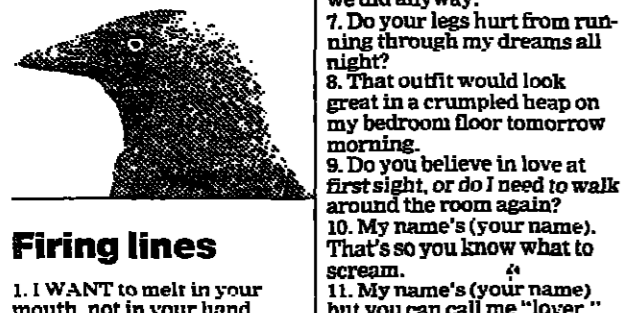
ern Italy and the advancing Allied armies towards the end of the war. Much of his secondary education was completed in Italy, although he graduated in history with archaeology and anthropology at University College, London.

His career began, inauspiciously enough, in 1952 at the BBC monitoring station at Caversham, where he worked as a report writer (he was fluent in several languages). From there, he transferred to the Overseas Service, before becoming TV editor at Radio Times. I had founded *Tomorrow's World* in 1965, and Nic joined the following year as an assistant producer, moving on two years later to the *Towards Tomorrow* series. He then became assistant editor of *The British Empire* series, planning and administering, and also producing the Canadian and West Indies programmes — on sugar and slavery. The 13-part series attracted high viewing figures, letters of complaint from neo-imperialists and bitter inter-acronym within the BBC — through which Nic sailed. He appeared on TV to confront his antagonists — and his sense of history stood him in excellent stead. Happily, the best was yet to

come. Nic moved on to *Horizon*, the jewel in the science department's crown, and after that he travelled all over Europe for *SOE: Special Operations Executive*, in which he disclosed some of the secrets of the Enigma codebreakers at Bletchley Park.
Some purist film-makers argued that Nic was a journalist wedded to the word rather than the picture. But what Nic knew was that the public wanted well-told stories. He produced a professional fusion of words and pictures which informed and satisfied them many times over. He was a superb documentarist who sought the truth beyond the prevailing fashion.
He leaves a wife and three daughters.

Glyn Jones
Dominic (Nic) Flessati, television producer, born October 2, 1927; died October 4, 1996

Jackdaw



6. Let's go to my place and do the things I'll tell everyone we did anyway.
7. Do your legs hurt from running through my dreams all night?
8. That outfit would look great in a crumpled heap on my bedroom floor tomorrow morning.
9. Do you believe in love at first sight, or do I need to walk around the room again?
10. My name's (your name). That's so you know what to scream.
11. My name's (your name). I'll take your microphone?
12. Can I borrow a quarter?
13. ("What for?") I want to call my mom and tell her I just met the girl of my dreams. OR: I want to call your mother and thank her.
14. Is your daddy a thief?
15. ("No.") Then how did he steal the sparkle of the stars and put it in your eyes? (Be ready with a snappy answer in case they say "yes.")
16. You're so hot you melt the plastic in my underwear.
17. Would you be my love buffet? So I can lay you out on the table and take what I want.

James Kirkup

Bernard Frank, oriental scholar and writer, born February 26, 1927; died 15 October 19, 1996

Jackdaw

19. If I could rearrange the alphabet, I'd put U and I together.
20. I miss my teddy bear. Would you sleep with me?
21. (Lick your finger, then touch you and your "friend's" shoulder). How about you and I go back to my place and get out of these wet clothes?
22. *The World's Best (worse) Pickup Lines at www.cmol.igs.net/scorpion/page12.htm Take the hint and run a mile.*

Closest queens

MELISSA: Mother, I am standing between two Liz Clabornes suits and rows and rows of matching pumps. It's thrilling.
Elizabeth: God bless you, Melissa. Tonight, I'd like to break tradition and come into the closet with you. Do you mind if I take your microphone?
Melissa: Every morning when I come into this closet I think to myself, I am choosing this pump for my husband because he was born in a Kansas small town and he knows what it means for every American to put on his shoes in the morn-

ing. Melissa, I hope some day you love a man the way I love my husband.
Joan: I hope so too.
Elizabeth: God, bless you Joan. When I get dressed, I remember that my husband may have been poor in material things but was rich in values. And that's what I look for in my clothes — values like honesty, decency, hard work, love of family and patriotism. For the Monday morning Harvard Law School Association Alumnae Committee, I will be wearing this pumpkin Liz Claborne suit with matching pumps and Monet costume jewellery. Years ago, my husband told me he would rather feed the hungry than give me jewellery, and I wept. Then, for the Tuesday Daughters of the South Garden Luncheon, I will be wearing this lovely dress that I wore to my first cotillion in 1954. I hope this dress is a bridge to past America. For the Thursday night party at Planet Hollywood, Bruce and Demi have invited a few of their friends to meet us, but we don't expect any of them to come. So I'll be wearing the same Bill Blass I wore

to Charlton Heston's birthday party.
For the Friday American Red Cross Volunteers' Tea, I will be wearing a simple Yves Saint-Laurent suit that I bought downstairs in my apartment complex in Washington. So many American working women have time to shop only when it's convenient. For the Saturday Walk With My Husband Along the Potomac, I always wear American blue jeans. My husband is a genuine war hero and blue jeans are my badge of honour.
Wendy Wasserstein imagines Joan Rivers and her daughter Melissa, following Elizabeth Dole into her closet. Writing in the *New Yorker*.

Bad start
ERNEST Titman, 54 Broad Street, Middletown, U Suckett 20430 NW 45th Avenue, Kennebunkport, ME 04046-5801
Dick Hung, Lake Oswego, OR 97034
A L Cobolic 6409 Springbrook, Ln, Harry Schmuck, 1201 Bane



Vogue... food for thought

Party poopers

THE TERM "dinner party" has always been a social and semantic minefield — how could it not be in a country where a good percentage of the population eats "dinner" at midday and thinks of a "party" as a beery do in a room above a pub?
Put the two words together and, as soon as they are out of your mouth, you have literally classed yourself. It is no coincidence that, in these socially fluid times, most people outside Fulham will dodge the phrase and ask the people to "come round for dinner" or, more probably, "for supper".
Consider getting your bread — and say, antipasti, dripping with olive oil — from a shop attached to a famous restaurant, such as London's *Gastrodome*, Clarke's, Carluccio's or San Lorenzo. It gives the meal instant cachet and reminds guests of your talent for "sourcing". For the modern dinner-party compliment is more likely to be about this than your kitchen handiwork. Once, your guests

Birthdays

John Blashford-Snell, explorer, 60; Elizabeth Connell, opera singer, 60; Barbara Craig, archaeologist, 81; Catherine Deneuve, actress, 53; Prof Charlotte Erickson, historian, 78; Lady Hazel Fox, jurist, 68; Jeff Goldblum, actor, 44; Sir Derek Jacobi, actor, 58; Doris Lessing, novelist, 77; Kelvin MacKenzie, former editor, the Sun, 50; Robert Ranscombe, pop artist, 71.

Death Notices
CASHMAN Bernard, FNCS, on 17th October died peacefully on October 19th 1996, aged 81.
ROBINSON, Oswald, on October 12th after a long illness died peacefully at Hamworthy House, Dorset. Donations to British Red Cross, British Legion, and British Legion, or to any of the above, if desired, to The Medical Heart and Lung Institute, Dovehouse St, London SW6 6L7.
If you place your announcement telephone 0171 735 6267. Fax 0171 735 6128.

Vertical advertisements on the right edge of the page, including 'The sell-off the', 'Red tape slashed to speed flow of private funds', and 'Pearson ti for takeov or make-o'.

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Red tape slashed to speed flow of private funds

Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley presents the plastic benefits payment card that replaces girocheques obsolete to its first customer, Victoria Yemm, from Leonard Stanley, Gloucestershire. The card is being launched at 10 post offices in the Stroud area. The PFI contract to computerise benefit and pension payments, which could be worth £1 billion over eight years, has been awarded to ICL Pathway.



PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID HOWELLS

Clarke tries to revive PFI

Richard Thomas
Economics Correspondent

THE Government attempted to revive its lagging private finance initiative yesterday, promising to slash Whitehall red tape and speed up the flow of private sector cash into public services.

Responding to widespread business criticism of the PFI as bureaucratic, slow and costly, the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, pledged to streamline the contracting process. Mr Clarke told the annual conference of the Private Finance Panel: "We have listened. We have learned. We are taking action. After the revolution comes evolution."

Although the CBI welcomed the proposals to simplify the PFI bidding process, director-general Alain Turner warned against using the initiative to justify cuts in state spending, particularly on transport. "The Government must make a stronger commitment to capital provision. Business is deeply concerned that the PFI is being used as an excuse to cut back."

Turner warned that while transport and prisons had been fruitful areas for the PFI, health and defence remained almost untouched by private money. "The success of the initiative is in the balance," he said. "Particularly in health, it has faced significant problems with projects badly log-jammed."

But Alastair Darling, shadow Treasury chief secretary, said the Government had failed to make the most of private sector capital because of an ideological objection to setting overall objectives. "The Government has to set priorities, has to decide whether it wants a new road or a new hospital," he said. Mr Darling also warned against the PFI being used as a "creative accounting" technique by getting borrowing off the Treasury's balance sheet.

Initiative fails the test of viability

BORN in the dark days after the pound's ejection from the ERM, the private finance initiative was seen as a way of providing a new economic direction, looking fresh and generally jollying everyone along, writes Richard Thomas.

Even in relatively straightforward schemes many potential contractors find the red tape involved prohibitive, and bidding costs alone can run into millions of pounds. Martin Laing, chairman of the Laing construction group, has been fiercely criticised the bureaucracy involved in a bid. "Rule and specifications seem to change all the time and vary from development to development, even in the same department," he said.

SUCCESSSES

- ✓ The Treasury provided a £100 million loan to help finance a £200 million contract to renovate the building and lease bank space to the retailers.
- ✓ Three private - Balfour Beatty and Lend Lease - have been contracted to build the PFI for £200 million.
- ✓ The Government's 9,000-page training manual for PFI bidders, which was published in a 10-volume series in Greenlight, South-east London, was completed under the PFI for £42 million.
- ✓ The planned replacement of London's Victoria Northern Line tube trains, valued at £1.2 billion, has been awarded to Balfour Beatty.

SETBACKS

- ✗ City one deal for transport construction was abandoned for a £170 million bid in Norfolk. The year's Budget Bill's Taylor Woodrow, Ferrac and Pender House have abandoned bids, citing bureaucratic delays. (A £150 million deal to replace computerised National Insurance records, won by Andersen Corporation, will miss its deadline.)
- ✗ Renovation of 40 primary schools in South-east "slippery slope", stalled because of "unreasonable" government specifications.
- ✗ Spending controls designed to curb the "loony left" have prevented local authority projects, joint ventures and now allowed only £15 million deal for roadworks.

Pearson tipped for takeover or make-over

Lisa Buckingham

PEARSON, the company that owns the Financial Times, Penguin Books, Madame Tussauds and Thames TV, yesterday saw its stock market value rise by £210 million to more than £2.16 billion on speculation that the company will be forced to dismember itself or face a hostile takeover assault.

Budgie goes belly-up in the US

Ian King

BUDGIE the Little Hell-icopter, the cartoon creation of the Duchess of York, has flopped in America, according to Sleepy Kids, the company which owns the rights to the character.

Waterstone fathers new concept: the Daisy & Tom chain

Dan Atkinson

FIRST there was Quadruphena, the album that became a film that spawned a (different) album of the film. Then there was Moonraker, the novel that led to a film so divergent from the novel that a novelisation of the film was called for. And who could forget Michael Jackson's multiplying videos of the making of the making of Thriller?

value. The shares eventually settled 64p lower at 20p. Apart from the damage to Sleepy Kids, the news will come as a huge blow to the Duchess, whose debts are rumoured to run into several million pounds.

Earlier this year, she signed a £3 million deal with an American investment group based on Budgie's future sales in the US, but then suffered a setback when ITV said it had turned down a fourth series featuring the character. In a statement, Sleepy Kids admitted that Budgie had failed to perform as expected in the US, mainly because of a delayed start to a merchandising programme by its American marketing agent.

It said the agent previously responsible for Budgie's marketing, Launey Hochmann Harris, had filed a Chapter 11 voluntary petition for relief under US bankruptcy laws and a legal delay was expected before a new agent could be appointed.

But Mervyn Powell, chairman of Sleepy Kids, said the company remained "confident" of Budgie's ability to continue contributing to profits over the longer term. Insisting that Budgie had not been "dropped" by the Fox Children's Network, as had been reported in various trade publications, Mr Powell said Sleepy Kids was yet to exploit the character in important markets like Germany and Japan.

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

Australia 1.9925	France 6.0275	Italy 2.397	Singapore 2.50
Austria 16.78	Germany 2.2640	Malta 0.5520	South Africa 7.06
Belgium 46.03	Greece 375.00	Netherlands 2.8750	Sweden 10.40
Canada 2.0090	Hong Kong 11.99	New Zealand 1.0	Switzerland 1.9955
Cyprus 0.72	India 55.78	Norway 10.13	Turkey 145.265
Denmark 2.16	Ireland 0.9650	Portugal 240.85	Turkey 145.265
Finland 7.27	Israel 5.79	Saudi Arabia 25	USA 1.5520

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Notebook

Cowdrays can stave off Sky



Mark Milner

BRITISH Sky Broadcasting's shares command a price-earnings ratio of a whisker over 50, not quite as steep as their foreign allies for all that. It is little surprise, therefore, to find analysts speculating that the company might want to use such highly rated paper to make acquisitions.

thing up to DM30 a share, the German group is scarcely a give-away, though most analysts yesterday reckoned the price range was fair enough.

Competition is likely to be fierce. Several German utilities and their foreign allies are already getting in position to mount a challenge once the German market is deregulated. The 40 per cent price cut for business users already announced by Deutsche Telekom indicates, however, that it is not about to give much ground without a hard fight.

Boris's gas gift

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin's live-on-television dismissal of his security adviser Alexander Lebed may have had the effect of Kremlinologists dusting off their skills but elsewhere Russia is demonstrating a new approach to old problems.

Take Gazprom, the country's giant gas company. Mr Yeltsin has just signed a decree aimed at cutting the amount it, and other energy companies, were owed by their domestic customers. In Gazprom's case, that amounts to the tidy sum of \$9 billion (\$5.7 billion). In the past Gazprom has jibbed at selling such debts at a discount, or settling for less than face value, because it had to pay tax as if they had been paid in full.

Calling Herr Sid

BRITISH Gas's "Sid" campaign may have encapsulated the British Government's drive to recruit the small investor, but it was the earlier privatisation of BT which was the real watershed.

Now the government has agreed that in future Gazprom will pay tax on only what it gets for the debt, not the actual amount owed, provided what it does get is above the cost of production and delivery. As a consequence Gazprom will be able to boost its cash flow by discounting debt at a discount.

EU's transit rules 'create open road for freight fraud'

Dan Atkinson

EUROPEAN freight and transport companies are picking up a \$6 billion-plus bill for fraud perpetrated within the EU's tax and customs system, according to the International Chamber of Commerce.

Britain's freight forwarders alone face costs of up to \$500 million. Transit procedures inside the EU "appear structured so as to actually encourage the proliferation of fraud", Eric Ellen, the ICC's head of commercial crime services, said. Because the costs of making good evaded duties fall on freight forwarders and other guarantors, EU member states had little incentive to pursue the fraudsters.

Deutsche Telekom set for £31bn float

Largest privatisation cuts BT down to size, report Nicholas Bannister and Julia Giertz

DEUTSCHE Telekom will be worth up to £31.35 billion when it is floated off next month in Europe's largest privatisation.

German and British analysts expect that shares in Deutsche Telekom will be priced at the top end of the DM25 (£10.20) to DM30 price range announced yesterday by the German state-owned telecommunications group.

The shares go on sale next month, with trading expected to start around November 20. About two-thirds of the shares will be on offer to private investors and institutions in Germany.

The remaining third is being split between the main foreign markets. Between 8 per cent and 12 per cent are expected to be sold in the UK, mainly to institutional investors.

At DM30 a share, the group — the world's third-largest telecom business — would be worth £31.35 billion, overshadowing British Telecom, which has a market value of £22.6 billion.

Dealers said that the group's shares were already being quoted on the unofficial grey market at up to DM25, 30 per cent above the top end of the indicative price range announced yesterday.

The sale of 500 million new shares, representing 20 per cent of the enlarged group, is designed to attract private investors in Germany who have traditionally shunned shares in favour of more secure bonds and bank savings.

A spokesman for Deutsche Telekom said that, at DM20, the shares would have a yield of between 2.5 per cent and 10 per cent over three years, outstripping the return available from bank savings and bonds.

Pierre Drach, head of Frankfurt-based analysts independent Research, said that the price was high but fair. He expected the final price to be set at about DM28 or DM30 a share.

He said: "On one hand, Deutsche Telekom is not comparable to other companies and international public offers because it has a leading position in the German market with an enormous ISDN network. On the other hand you have its enormous debts of DM100 billion."

Mr Drach said the group risked losing market share as the German telecom market is opened to full competition. It had already lost part of the mobile phone market.

The proposed 1997 dividend yield of between 5.7 per cent and 6.9 per cent is expected to appeal to private investors, who have been courted for some months by Deutsche Telekom.

The company said yesterday that more than three million individuals had registered an interest, qualifying for discount on the purchase of up to 300 shares.

The offer will raise between \$5.1 billion and \$6.1 billion, which will be used to reduce the group's huge debt, largely incurred during the modernisation of the East German telecom network after unification in 1990.

Deutsche Telekom, like its counterpart in France, is expected to face fierce opposition from the unions as it attempts to reduce its workforce. The German group is planning to lose 30,000 jobs by the end of the century, to leave it with just 170,000 employees.

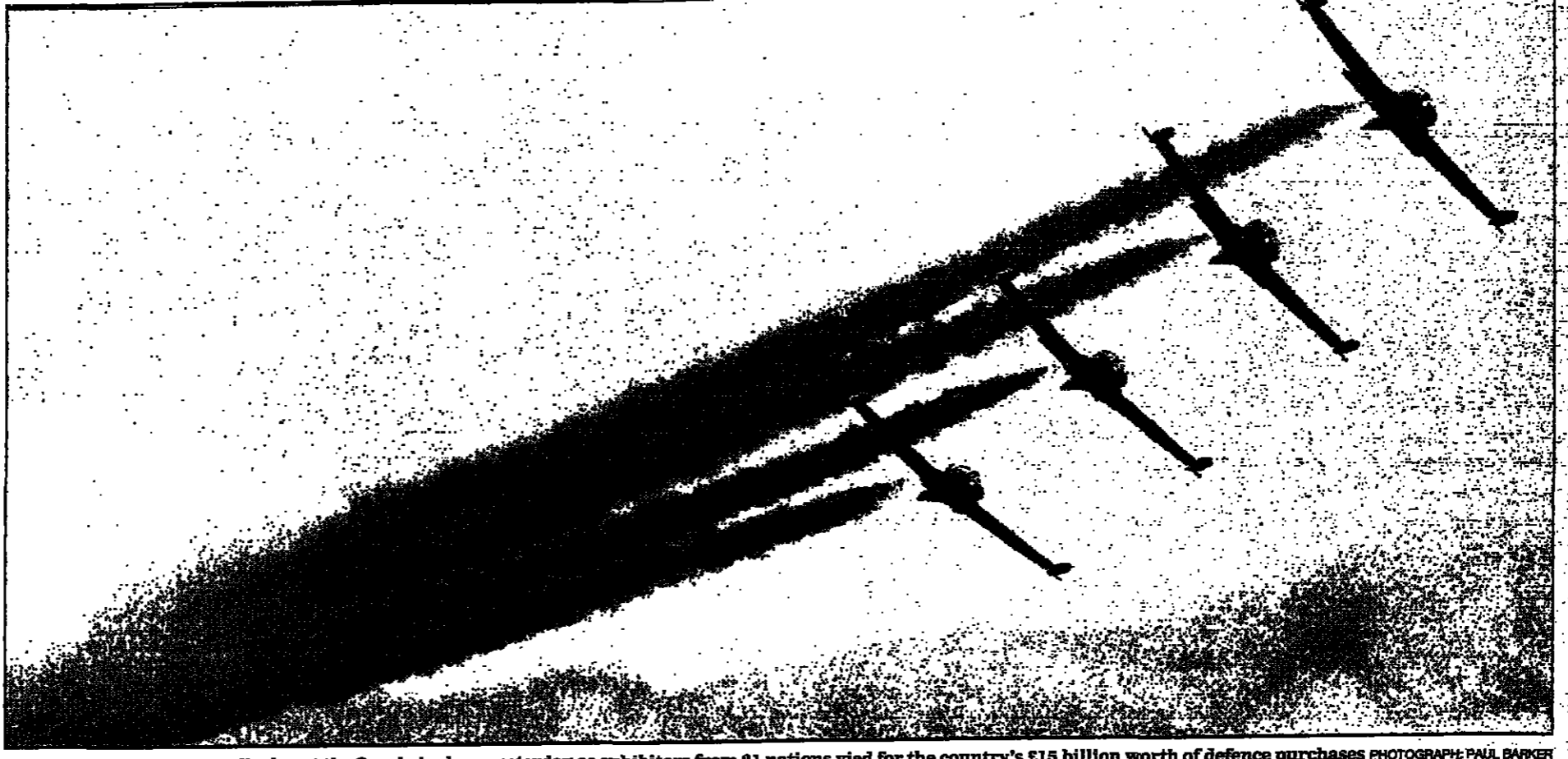
Dieter Kauffmann, head of a lobby group for small shareholders, said an offer price of around DM20 to DM25 would attract more private investors. "Given Deutsche Telekom's need to lower prices and the high cost of dismissing staff, it is not quite clear whether it will achieve the earnings in 1997 for reducing debts and paying its promised high dividend," he said.

German plans are not confined to Deutsche Telekom. Postbank, the post office savings bank, has also been earmarked for privatisation, for example. Some of the states, such as Baden-Württemberg, are planning to sell shares in their banks and breweries.

In France, the government has a long privatisation list. It has just indicated that it would like to sell the defence and electronics group Thomson to the Lagardère combine and would dearly love to unload the Credit Lyonnais bank as well as the computer-maker Bull.

Also slated for sale are Assurances Générales, France, the remainder of carmaker Renault and Air France.

Spain, meanwhile, is deeply involved in the privatisation of utilities, as in Portugal, which plans to sell just under half of the electricity group EDP next year.



South Korea's air force on display at the Seoul air show yesterday as exhibitors from 21 nations vied for the country's £15 billion worth of defence purchases PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL BARKER

IBM hails an American recovery

Mark Tran in New York

FLAT revenues in Europe led to a slight drop in third-quarter profits from a year ago for IBM, the world's largest computer-maker, but Wall Street still cheered the results.

All regions showed a gain in sales, except Europe. Revenue increased by 14 per cent in North America, 12 per cent in Latin America and 8 per cent in Asia.

Profits were \$1.2 billion (£770 million) for the three months ended September 30, compared with \$1.3 billion a year ago.

Wall Street was pleased with IBM's figures because they came in at the upper end of estimates.

Analysts came away encouraged from a briefing with Richard Thomas, IBM's chief financial officer, who gave an upbeat assessment of the company's performance.

"We are very pleased. We think we have many, many strong businesses," Mr Thomas told a select group of big investors and analysts.

IBM's share price rose \$4.3 per cent, to more than \$133 in early afternoon trading. IBM's stock price has bounced around this year, reflecting continuing investor skittishness despite being nursed back to financial health by Louis Gerstner.

Although IBM's fortunes have improved markedly from three years ago, when Big Blue was in danger of sinking under its own bureaucratic weight, investors still wonder about the company's staying power in the Internet era.

IBM said that its revenue from computer hardware, including mainframes and personal computers, rose 8 per cent to \$3.4 billion.

Equipment sales account for nearly half of overall company revenue. IBM's results reflect brisk sales of a new, cheaper mainframe computer. Big Blue needs strong sales on the new model because profit margins are thinner for the new, less expensive machines.

Mr Thomas expressed optimism about IBM's personal computer sales and prospects. He said that IBM was making a determined push to win accounts from small- and medium-sized businesses, where the potential for strong profits exists.

For the nine months ended September 30, IBM's operating profits fell 10.8 per cent to \$3.8 billion, compared with profits of \$4.3 billion a year ago. Revenue grew 5.6 per cent to \$52.8 billion.

US Air, British Airways' American partner, yesterday reported third-quarter profits of \$67.7 million, up \$43.1 million on a year before — exceeding Wall Street predictions and maintaining the carrier's recent resurgence.

Revenue of \$2 million set a third-quarter record, aided by strong traffic on international routes.

Birthday treat for former Tarmac chief

Pauline Springett

JOHN LOVERING, former chief operating officer of Tarmac, is heading a \$90 million acquisition of Birthdays Greeting Cards.

Mr Lovering will take over as chairman from the company's founder, Ron Wood, who is to step down from the board but remain as a consultant. Mr Lovering said he was looking for a new commercial director.

Bury-based Birthdays has more than 300 shops, 50 franchised outlets, and 2,000 staff. Mr Lovering said he planned to open between 120 and 150 new shops in the next three to four years, with a view to floating the business at the end of that period.

"We think it is a very successful high growth retail business with plenty of potential. There are not many businesses like this with margins of 10 per cent to 11 per cent," said Mr Lovering.

The finance for the deal is being provided by Prudential Ventures and Schroder Ventures. Most of the \$90 million will go to Mr Wood and his family, although it is understood they plan a substantial reinvestment in the business.

As well as the retail stores, Birthdays owns a wholesale business and a cash and carry operation. Operating profits were £11 million in the year to June this year, with sales of £99.3 million.

About two-thirds of Birthdays' sales come from greetings cards. It also sells gift-wrapping, tags and giftware.

Mr Lovering left the Tarmac construction group in August with a £287,000 payout. Backed by a group of supporters which included Schroder Ventures and Prudential, he then made a bid for Tarmac's housebuilding division, but was outbid by Wimpey. At the time Mr Lovering said his backers had asked him to continue his search for an acquisition.

Mr Lovering had been at Tarmac for two years when he quit to make his bid. He has extensive experience of retailing, having joined Tarmac after five years at the Sears stores group.

Prior to that he was in the retailing division of food and drinks giant Grand Metropolitan.

Greycoat fights rebels

Ian King

GREYCOAT, the property company, has vowed to defeat moves by UK Active Value Fund, its second largest shareholder, to force the sale of its £500 million portfolio.

Greycoat, which owns around 20 London properties, yesterday received a requisition from nominees acting for UK Active Value — run by South Africans Julian Treger and Brian Myerson — to convene an extraordinary general meeting of the company.

At the meeting, UK Active Value will call for the wholesale disposal of the portfolio, which includes the prestige Embankment Place development at Charing Cross, London, and for proceeds to be distributed to shareholders.

Greycoat's chief executive, Peter Thornton, said the company expected the rebels to fail in their attempt to break up its portfolio as Greycoat had no plans to sell any properties.

Mr Thornton said the calls from UK Active Value, which owns around 10.6 per cent of Greycoat's shares, were an "unwelcome, annoying and costly distraction", and he promised the company would fight them. "It doesn't make sense to sell off a portfolio in a market that is rising. We've

got a good development programme under way and it's too early to consider selling."

But Mr Myerson, who resigned as a non-executive director of Greycoat earlier this year, insisted last night that he expected UK Active Value's proposals to attract "considerable support" from other shareholders.

UK Active Value rescued Greycoat from the clutches of the receiver less than three years ago, but tried to block the £79 million sale of one of Greycoat's London properties, at 151 Buckingham Palace Road, in May.

Greycoat shares jumped 4 1/2p to 147 1/2p on news of the break-up move.

News in brief

BP fuels £1.6bn Shanghai venture

BP yesterday announced plans for a \$2.5 billion (£1.6 billion) joint venture in China, its biggest investment in the country to date, in association with Shanghai Petrochemical Co. BE has signed a letter of intent to set up an ethylene plant in Shanghai, expected to produce some 650,000 tonnes of ethylene each year.

BP, which has been doing business in China since 1973, said talks between both parties on the possibility of producing certain ethylene derivative products were also well advanced. — Ian King

Bass develops Czech thirst

BASS, the brewery and leisure group which is in the process of acquiring a half share in Carlsberg-Tetley, said yesterday it would probably increase its shareholding in the Prague-based brewer Franske Pivovary to 51 per cent next month. The British company already owns 46 per cent of Prague, which it started to acquire in 1993, and has an option on another 5 per cent in the brewer, which is one of the Czech Republic's four market leaders, with brands such as Staropramen, Mestan and Branik. — Lisa Buckingham

Vodafone rings up 1 million

VODAFONE yesterday said it had signed up the millionth subscriber for its digital mobile phone service, the first of the UK operators to do so in the fierce battle between four competitors — Vodafone, Cellnet, Orange and One-2-One. — Nicholas Bannister

Burton in Racing Green

BURTON, the retail group, is paying \$19 million to buy Racing Green, a casual wear mail-order and retail business. The company said it was issuing 2.89 million new shares to raise about \$4 million of the purchase price. Shares in the company rose by 3 1/2p to 154 1/2p on the news. Racing Green will be managed by the group's home shopping division. — Lisa Buckingham

Dresdner detects fraud

DRESDNER Bank, the German owner of British-based investment bank Kleinwort Benson, yesterday said it had lost DM4 million (£1.6 million) as a result of false accounting by an employee in its bond-dealing operation. Dresdner, which has dismissed the employee without notice, said its internal risk department had uncovered the discrepancy at the end of August. The bank said the employee had conducted false accounting in his trading book, possibly to present better profits, but added it was "proud" it had uncovered the fault so quickly. — Ian King

Eurotunnel wields axe

Ian King

EUROTUNNEL, the debt-laden Channel tunnel operator, will today announce that it is cutting 687 jobs from its Le Shuttle operation — over a fifth of the company's entire workforce.

Eurotunnel, which unveiled plans to restructure its £9.1 billion debt mountain two weeks ago, will meet with members of its works councils in Calais later today to discuss the job losses.

The jobs going — which will be split between British and French workers — are largely those of consultants, and other staff employed on short-term contracts.

It is expected that a number of full-time staff jobs will also be lost, although a Eurotunnel spokeswoman said last night that the company would be looking to redeploy most of those involved.

She said that the cuts were part of a drive to streamline Le Shuttle's operations, to 'Full-time workers will be retrained or redeployed where possible'

allow it to compete more effectively with Channel ferries.

The spokeswoman said: "We are hoping to make a formal presentation to our works councils tomorrow, and we'd rather tell them

first. But we would hope that full-time workers will be retrained or redeployed where possible."

The job losses are expected to be phased in over the next 12 to 14 months.

News of the cuts follows an announcement by Eurotunnel, earlier this year, of a major cost-cutting programme which will see the group's remaining London and Paris-based staff moved to Folkestone and Calais.

Although Eurotunnel has fought an increasingly successful battle against the ferry operators, snatching almost half the market, it has come under intense pressure from its 225 bankers to slash costs in a programme to make the operation profitable.

Shares in Eurotunnel closed up a penny at 94 1/2p.

7.30am HEATHROW Iberia: First to Madrid



We've got more time for you



7.55pm MADRID Iberia: Last back to Heathrow



Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the advertisement.

'I know a dinosaur called Daryl Powell, Dug up by an archaeologist's trowel. He likes to think he's young like us, Drawing his pension and free rides on the bus.'

Such contributions to the Welsh poetic tradition may have earned Rowland Phillips the title Bard of Bridgend, but they have done little for his Antipodean tour

Andy Wilson on the travails of a versifying prop

Waiting game for budding bard



Breathless prose... Rowland Phillips takes in oxygen during Great Britain's Test match against Papua New Guinea. PHOTOGRAPH: VICTORIA MATTHEWS

ADYLAN THOMAS he is not. Thomas's poems were not abridged by total cleaners. But Thomas would not have tackled the New Zealand Maoris at Whangarei today, so Rowland Phillips is, one assumes, the best Welsh poet to have represented Great Britain on a rugby league tour. It was a week in Papua New Guinea at the start of the tour which inspired or rather drove Phillips to verse. His first effort, My Cyst, was a reflection on the long-standing facial injury which became infected after his Test debut in Lae and ruled him out of the two games in Fiji. The Lamphard Man was, on similar lines, but both poems have gone missing during the Lions' stay in Auckland, with the room maids the prime suspects. Fortunately My Friend Bernard, a lament for the tribulations on tour of Phillips'

room-mate in PNG, Bernard Dwyer, has been preserved for posterity. Dwyer had it typed and has sent a copy to his wife in St Helens to be framed. Dwyer was sidelined in PNG by histers, aggravated in a training session in Singapore midway through the squad's marathon journey. Then he suffered chronic diarrhoea and finally he had his money stolen from a hotel safe in Fiji. Phillips wrote: "If you think your life is dire, spare a thought for Bernard Dwyer."

The Bard of Bridgend's next poem was Daryl the Dinosaur, the study above of Daryl Powell, who at 31 is the oldest player in the party; a week older than Phillips. Unlike Powell, established as a centre in the Test team, Phillips has found himself lumped with the midweek team. They call themselves the Ham and Eggs; none of them knows why, but the rhyming slang for dregs is favourite. Yet today Phillips will be battling with his fellow prop Brian McCormick, Steve Molloy and Neil Harman to earn a place on the bench in Friday's second Test.

Phillips's selection for the tour smacked of tokenism to those family live in Neath. "But league is my main sport now." He may yet join South Wales if the Super League invites that club to compete in 1997. If not, he will almost certainly be his international swan-song, eight years after his first rugby union tour of New Zealand with Wales. Phillips has yet to start a game on tour and will again be a substitute against the Lions today. McCormick and Molloy, excluded from the first Test defeat against New Zealand on Friday after playing in Fiji, are in the starting line-up.

The Lions are spoilt for choice in the forwards, with Harman and Dave Bradbury also kept on the bench. Larder's options in the three-quarters have been seriously limited by knee injuries that have caused Joey Hayes and Jason Critchley to be sent home. Larder has called up the Salford centre Nathan McAvoy, captain of the Under-19 Academy side also in New Zealand, as a substitute, with Sheffield's Keith Senior switching to the wing. Senior needs to impress to retain his place for the second Test in Palmerston North. Adrian Morley, who was harshly sin-binned five minutes into his Test debut, will also start today, but the most significant selection is that of Karl Hammond at stand-off. He has alternated between stand-off and loose forward on tour before being forced out to centre by the injuries to Hayes and Critchley in the second half of the game against the Presidents' side. Hammond impressed in all three positions and today he will wear No. 6, with Tulse Tollet, a specialist half-back, at centre — the strongest indication that Hammond is pressing Iestyn Harris for the Test stand-off position.

Chepstow runners and riders

Table of race results for Chepstow, including sections for 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 4.00, 4.30, and 5.00. Lists race numbers, names of horses and riders, and winning times.

Warwick (N.H.) with form

Table of race results for Warwick, including sections for 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 4.00, 4.30, and 5.00. Lists race numbers, names of horses and riders, and winning times.

Plumpton (N.H.)

Table of race results for Plumpton, including sections for 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 4.00, 4.30, and 5.00. Lists race numbers, names of horses and riders, and winning times.

Results

Table of race results for Folkestone, including sections for 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 4.00, 4.30, and 5.00. Lists race numbers, names of horses and riders, and winning times.

Table of race results for Pontefract, including sections for 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 4.00, 4.30, and 5.00. Lists race numbers, names of horses and riders, and winning times.

Table of race results for Warwick, including sections for 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 4.00, 4.30, and 5.00. Lists race numbers, names of horses and riders, and winning times.

Benny The Dip has first class claims in Post

Benny The Dip, American-owned and bred, is the favourite to silence the combined guns of Godolphin and Henry Cecil in the Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster on Saturday. While the £75,000 race could yet decide the champion trainer's title — Cecil runs Besiege and Godolphin have supplemented Asas and Medaaly at a cost of £30,000 — Benny The Dip, named after a Damon Runyon character, has the form in the book. Landon Knight's colt had Besiege two lengths back in third when he won the Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot last month. Acting on that evidence, Hill's make the John Gosden-trained juvenile 2.1. Coral go 7-4 and the Tote 13-8. Asas and Medaaly are bracketed on 8-1 with Coral, along with Foteen, another supplement entry. Benny Hill's are as low as 11-2 about Foteen, a tidy winner on his debut at Haydock for Luca Cumani. Sunbeam Dance, Godolphin's only runner yesterday, made no show in the Tote 50-1. He was the second favourite behind Tankard at Pontefract, leaving his trainer Saeed bin Suero £50,000 behind Cecil after last Saturday's tumultuous events. Can Ben could edge Cecil in the Conditions Stakes at Cheltenham today, but at level weights the Mark Johnston-trained Celestial Key (3.00) should have the edge. Nilgiri Hills (4.00) has proved expensive to follow, but he has done most of his racing on fast ground. In the belief that today's going will bring out the best in him, John Dunlop's colt is named in the Richard Holder Handicap. His stable companion Mawared (5.00) made a promising return to action when third behind Present Arms at Leicester last week. The latter has been well backed for next month's November Handicap — he was cut from 10-1 to 7-1 favourite by Coral yesterday — and Mawared can give the form a boost here. Britain's Breeders' Cup challenge got off the ground yesterday when the nine-strong team, spearheaded by leading miller Mark Of Esteem, flew out of Stansted for Woodbine on Saturday. The team face up to 48 hours in quarantine but are likely to take their first track exercise tomorrow morning provided they clear the routine blood tests which are taken on arrival. The Woodbine track has been hit by a week of almost non-stop rain, but racecourse publicity director Bruce Walker predicts perfect ground for Saturday. "It's soft at the moment but not as soft as European runners are used to. The forecast is for sun with wind on Friday and this course really drains well, the best of any track in North America. "You could hear the horses squishing around it this morning but the surface will really tighten up in the next few days," he said yesterday. Coral reported further support for Mark Of Esteem and now make the colt 11-10 for the Mile from 11-8.

Sparrow repeats call for tax cut

WITH the Budget just over a month away Levy Board chairman Sparrow has repeated the call for betting duty to be cut to 5 per cent. In response to calls for duty to be slashed to mitigate the damage caused to the racing industry by the National Lottery, Kenneth Clarke reduced the rate from 7.75 per cent to 6.75 in last November's Budget, a move which Sparrow has welcomed. Of the 1.75 per cent cut called for, 1 per cent would be passed on to off-course punters via a reduction in bookmakers' deductions, with 0.75 passed on to racing via the Levy.

Birth of a former Tarmachief

Andy Wilson on the travails of a versifying prop

Such contributions to the Welsh poetic tradition may have earned Rowland Phillips the title Bard of Bridgend, but they have done little for his Antipodean tour

Phillips has been lumped with the tourists' Ham and Eggs

with Treorchy, Phillips eclipses Scott Quinnell, Paul Moriarty and David Young as players working in the club

Phillips has called up the Salford centre Nathan McAvoy, captain of the Under-19 Academy side also in New Zealand, as a substitute, with Sheffield's Keith Senior switching to the wing.

Warwick (N.H.) with form

Plumpton (N.H.)

Results

RACELINE 0930 1681 CHEPSTOW WARWICK PLUMPTON

Soccer

Blackburn sound out Bebeto

Blackburn Rovers' desperation is such that they are considering making an attempt to lure the Brazilian striker Bebeto back to Europe. Although Bebeto was a key figure in Brazil's World Cup triumph in 1994 he is, at 32, regarded as a diminishing force. However, he is viewed in an altogether better light in East Lancashire, where the club who just 18 months ago won the Premiership now need a fast cure for their current ills. Bebeto is playing for Flamengo, having returned to Brazil in 1994 after a successful spell in Spain with Deportivo La Coruña. Blackburn have made tentative inquiries and would not balk at an asking price of £3 million. Despite the millions of their wealthy benefactor Jack Walker, Rovers are marooned at the foot of the Premiership, the only professional club in England not to have won a league game this season. Although the club's pursuit of a man deemed worthy of succeeding Alan Shearer has been relentless, the manager Eric Hartford has had to persuade anyone to fill the England striker's boots. Among those who have declined invitations to pick up fat salaries at Ewood Park are the German strikers Jürgen Klinsmann and Oliver Bierhoff and the Swedish international Martin Dahlin. Everton's manager Joe Royle has joined the chase for the Queens Park Rangers forward Trevor Sinclair, whose transfer request is expected to be granted today. "I have contacted Rangers although I have not made a bid," said Royle, who has told the QPR manager Stewart Houston that he is willing to offer a player-plus-money package involving either Vinny Samways or Matt Jackson. Leeds United, Chelsea and Tottenham have also expressed interest in Sinclair, who is conservatively valued at £4.5 million. Liverpool, who need an understudy for the injured, are considering offering the Tranmere goalkeeper Eric Nixon an opportunity to return to the big stage at the age of 34. They are willing to pay about £100,000 for Nixon, who is currently on loan at Bradford City. The Liverpool defender Rob Jones will learn tomorrow when he will be able to resume his career. The full-back is to see a leading specialist about the serious knee injury which has kept him inactive for the past five months.

League in new strike talks

The Football League is to hold further discussions with the Professional Footballers' Association in an effort to resolve the threat of a players' strike over television money. The League announced yesterday that it will be "in communication shortly" with the PFA after the strike issue was discussed in length at its regular monthly board meeting at Lytham St Annes. The possibility of a walkout was postponed last weekend in the hope of the League being able to thrash out a compromise offer to put the players' union, which is unhappy at no longer receiving 10 per cent of television revenue. Under the former guidelines, that would amount to £25 million of the current £25 million agreement with BSkyB for showing Nationwide League matches on television. Although League officials were saying little after their meeting, the fact that talks went on for several hours is being viewed as an encouraging sign. The League's spokesman Chris Hull said: "The League's board of directors met some length. Although we are not in a position at this stage to divulge publicly the contents of the discussions, we will be in communication with the PFA shortly." Liverpool have called in pitch consultants, after the postponement of Sunday's Merseyside derby because of waterlogging at Anfield. The club's vice-chairman and chief executive Peter Robinson said: "We are calling them in to find out why the pitch was holding so much water. We clearly want to study all aspects of this." Second Division Wycombe Wanderers will name their new manager today. Dave Merrington, sacked by Southampton at the end of last season, is the front-runner to succeed Alan Smith. Cagliari have sacked their Uruguayan coach Gregorio Perez. The Serie A club are expected to replace him with the veteran Carlo Mazzone.

Hibs' extension of caretaker role leaves Scott bemused

Hibernian's decision to give Jocky Scott an extended run as caretaker manager - whatever that means - is more closely related to poverty than parsimony. Scott, the former assistant to Alex Miller, has been filling in at the Edinburgh club since the latter's resignation three weeks ago and was bemused when the chairman Douglas Cromb made the announcement yesterday. "I will seek a meeting with the board of directors tomorrow in an attempt to clarify his position. He has made it known since Miller's departure that he was a candidate for the job, but it appeared he had been passed over when Hibs made a move for Motherwell's Alex McLeish. Hibs were also reported to have a stand-by shortlist which included Jim Duffy of Dundee McLeish, whose contract at Fir Park ends next summer, made it known that he was interested but the Motherwell director refused Hibs permission to approach. It is believed Cromb and his board pulled out for fear of a confrontation leading to the a fine and compensation order such as that which cost Celtic £200,000 when they took Tommy Burns from Kilmarnock in similar circumstances. Hibs cannot afford such a bill. In Scott's first match Hibs defeated Rangers at Easter Road and drew 1-1 at Motherwell last Saturday despite the goalkeeper, Jim Leighton, being sent off. "I'll have to talk to the directors to find out exactly what this means," said Scott. "It's not ideal, but at least I know I'm going back into work tomorrow." Scott may be allowed to continue until Christmas, though the way things are shaping he could become the longest-serving caretaker in football history.

Team talk

Table with 4 columns: Team, Opponent, Date, Venue. Includes Arsenal vs Ipswich, Aston Villa vs Leeds, Birmingham vs Leicester, Blackburn vs Liverpool, Bolton vs Man City, Brentford vs Man United, Burnley vs Middlesex, Chelsea vs Millwall, Coventry City vs Newcastle, Derby County vs Norwich, Everton vs Nottm Forest, Huddersfield vs QPR.



The man and his own image... Jack Charlton alongside a cardboard cut-out at the launch of his autobiography in London

The hurt that Jack felt writ large

Paul Weaver with chapter and verse on the bitter family rift that seems certain to drive the Charlton brothers farther apart. THE first question flew at Jack Charlton from the back of the room at London's Café Royal like one of the Republic of Ireland's infamous long balls: how difficult had he found it to write about his brother Bobby in his new autobiography? The big man took it in his stride. "I found it very, very difficult. I didn't want to do it. But then the people I was doing the book with explained that I could hardly write an autobiography without mentioning him. But in the end I kept that bit as short as I could get away with. "I've no idea whether there will be a reconciliation. We'll find out in the future. But I don't think he'll like what I've written here. He might ring me up and give me a bollocking, but I'm not bothered." Indeed, a quick shift at these pages might be enough to deprive Sir Bobby of his few remaining hairs. The two famous footballing brothers have not been particularly close for years but they have never been farther apart than they are now. "Upset by Bobby's reluctance to visit their dying mother, Jack says in the book: "For six or seven years before she died, my mother saw little if anything of our Robert. I don't know what it was between them but the rift affected the family terribly. I couldn't understand it. I'd sometimes ask my mother but she was very loath to talk about it. "Eventually my mother went into a home. She was getting unsteady on her feet and nearly burned herself. But still not a word from our Robert. I tried to get him to go and see her, even phone her, send a card. And he just said, 'I do it when I think the time is right. I'll run my life the way I see it, and I'll do what I want to.' She desperately wanted him to go and see her. But he never did. He did turn up on the day for her funeral, and I was pleased about that." Jack describes a phone call he received in Sardinia from Bobby just before the Republic's 1990 World Cup match against England. "What are you ringing for?" I asked. "I just thought I'd give you a call and wish you all the best for the game," was the reply. "Wait a minute," I said. "You're an Englishman and you're playing England. You've never made contact with me well before. Why now? My reaction seemed to surprise him as much as his call had surprised me. It showed how distant the two of us had become, how we had grown apart and gone our different ways over the years... In a way Robert was never the same lad to me after Munich. He stopped smiling, a trait which continues to this day." Jack was never the player his brother was but he was more than twice the manager, with his pragmatism, straight-talking and strong personality. He was also more than simply a champion of well-being, as those who watched the Republic's World Cup win over Italy in New York two years ago would confirm. Before the Football Association of Ireland rather clumsily hastened his resignation, he had won 46 of his 93 matches in charge of the national side, losing only 17. He wanted to manage England. "I had never applied for a job before but I did here because someone asked me to. But I didn't even get an acknowledgment." Charlton has received £500,000 for his book (Partridge Press, £16.99). The big-

League quick to defend attack over racism

John Duncan. THE Football League was attacked yesterday at the launch of its new Kick Racism Out of Football campaign - for failing to take racism seriously. "The Football League still do not recognise that this is a problem," said Herman Niersbach, the chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality. "They want it dressed up as something else, as a problem of hooliganism or something like that, but the targeting of black fans and black players for abuse has been a specific problem." The Football League denies ignoring the campaign. "We give the CRE an unparalleled platform to promote this initiative," said the League spokesman Chris Hull. "We have 72 clubs who all offer help in some capacity, from programme directors to boards, to specific anti-racist campaigns. We have promoted this campaign to all our clubs." The Arsenal striker Ian Wright, who was at the launch, said: "The problem is not so great in the Premier League, but when you play away in Cup games against teams from the lower leagues it is still there, both from fans and players." The League again takes issue. "I find that personally very surprising," said Hull. "I can't recall the last time I heard a racial chant at a football ground, and I would estimate 99 per cent of my football in the Nationwide League." Formed in 1993, the campaign will this year move the focus of its efforts lower down at the grassroots of the game. It is also lobbying to close a loophole in the law which deems the chanting of racist abuse at football matches illegal only if groups of three or more are involved; such abuse by an individual is not specifically illegal. The England coach Glenn Hoddle gave his backing yesterday and said: "I would discipline players who were found to be using racist abuse against opponents on international duty. "It was a major problem 20 years ago, 15 years ago," he said. "It's something that we are getting close to solving, but we've got to stay on top of it and that's what we're doing." The Football Association, which has also backed the campaign, was asked why there were so few black faces at the top table of English football administration. "That is something we have to address," said David Davies, the director of communications. "It would be hypocritical to say otherwise."

Germany miss point over World Cup says FA

Mark Pym. THE FA has accused its German rivals of "missing the point" in the contest to host the 2006 World Cup. The German FA spokesman Wolfgang Niersbach claimed England lacked the facilities to stage another major soccer tournament. He said: "For Euro 96, the English built a mixed interview zone in Wembley's tunnel. Is that the way ahead? And that about 100 journalists could have contact with the players after matches. Are those standards high enough? "You could not play a World Cup at Wembley in 2006 if you look at the current state of the dressing rooms and facilities." But Alec McGivain, leading England's campaign for the World Cup, retorted: "It is rather missing the point to criticise facilities at Wembley when the World Cup in question is a full 10 years away. By that time there will be a new stadium with new facilities - possibly even two - in England. Naturally we are basing our bid on the facilities in place by that year." McGivain will meet FIFA officials within a fortnight to discuss England's bid. Roy Keane, out for a month with a leg injury, will return for Manchester United tomorrow in the Coca-Cola Cup tie with Swindon.

Results

Table of sports results including Soccer (Premier League, Championship), Baseball (World Series), Basketball (NBA, ABA), Golf (PGA Tour), Cricket (Test matches), American Football (NFL), Ice Hockey (NHL).

Pools: Forecast

Table of sports forecasts for various leagues including FA Cup, Scottish Premier Division, Scottish First Division, Scottish Second Division, and European League.

Large advertisement for 'ROSES' featuring a woman's face and the text 'American Football Redskins Giants at'. The ad is partially cut off on the right side of the page.

Rugby Union

For a full season Frank Keating lived and breathed with the England team and was privy to the secrets of the inner sanctum. Here he reveals how it felt to find himself more of an interloper than a fly on the wall as Jack Rowell put the team through their paces

Roses and grunting wigwams

THE day before St Patrick's Day 1996 was a sacrilegious and personal watershed. On March 16 Ireland played England at Twickenham and were beaten soundly enough, and for the first time in 50 years I found myself in a "We wasn't robbed".

To be sure I had to admit shamefacedly to ghostly ancestors across the water that I had been rather depending (just this once) on an emphatic English victory, for not only would the Five Nations Championship ensure a boastful gloss to the cover of a book but, well, I had not found becoming individually very fond of the mixed bag of covers and self-obsessed top-drawer athletes who pulled on the white shirts of England.

And on St Patrick's eve they duly prevailed. They had needed in the 1996 international season. Rugby union suddenly professional, was viciously barging and buffeting itself on all sides. It was as turbulent as it was traumatic. Doubly so for the captain Will Carling, whose life had been topsy-turvy by the press in less than 12 months between his calling the RFU committee a "bunch of old farts" and his short marriage being laid bare after the separated Princess of Wales did, or did not,

The books they read were of the Gulf War variety; their films the most red-blooded

walk into his life, or rather his health club. Spending a season closeted with Carling's England and with one of the country's most accomplished young photographers, Jon Nicholson, being allowed full and intimate access to their collective psyche was — if one likes that sort of thing — a rare opportunity for a sports-writer, even a privileged one.

It was, too, a regular embarrassment for one steeped in the presumption that the locker-room is a sacrosanct sanctity exclusive to those taking part in the "sacrifice". Fly on the wall is one thing but downright interloper is another.

As a result, perhaps, I found myself too regularly using the telescope the wrong way round. When every fibre of concentration was demanded to take in, and take down, the sharp and narrow focus, my mind was being distracted by the hazy, wide sweep of generalities. And vice versa.

For instance, moments before the gladiators, 15 frenziedly stoked up as one, were sent quaking into the arena, Carling called for a last-minute granting wigwams of a hallow bear-hug, and — not knowing where to look and feeling sheepish — I found myself switching off totally and staring at the unopened and expensively gift-

wrapped, cellophanned bunch of red roses under the corner sacrilegious and personal watershed. On March 16 Ireland played England at Twickenham and were beaten soundly enough, and for the first time in 50 years I found myself in a "We wasn't robbed".

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All in the game... Mark Regan's heavily strapped left leg comes under close scrutiny

PHOTOGRAPH: JON NICHOLSON

tacles glinting. "He might be at yours but he's not reporting on mine," he said with finality. "Team meetings are no place for outsiders with Biro, and notebook, that's a fact and that's final, end of discussion."

End, therefore, of project, QED. Carling was to be a boon and a refreshing ally throughout the season, and now he piped up. He was i/c the dressing room and I would unquestionably still be granted the agreed access there as keeper of the log.

Within hours Rowell had

wrapped an avuncular arm around my shoulders in the hotel in Versailles and warmly invited — no, ordered — me to attend. "Team meeting at 8.30. Be there."

From then on he put up with me, and just as often he provided rich insights he need not have confided. Such was typical of Rowell. His style is to be the enigma. It gives him the licence to blow hot or cold, keep "the opposition" on its toes as well as, at the same time, his own team. Which might make for the secret of his success: it did,

Sport in brief

Rookie Jones stuns Yankees

THE New York Yankees took the field to the strains of the Superman theme tune and the roars of 57,000 fans who had not seen their team compete in a World Series for 15 years. They left it in stunned silence, writes Ian Katz in New York.

The team who once dominated baseball so thoroughly that the Fall Classic was virtually considered a regular-season fixture were roundly thrashed by an Atlanta Braves side riding on the strong shoulders of unknown 19-year-old.

Andruw Jones, who began this season playing in the lowest of the minor leagues, hit home runs in his first two visits to the plate on Sunday night, propelling his team to a 12-1 victory in the first match of the best-of-seven series. It was the heaviest defeat the Yankees had suffered in their long World Series history. Jones, who did not stop grinning through three hours of Yankee agony, eclipsed the great Mickey Mantle to become the youngest player ever to hit a home run in a World Series game.

Chinese woman banned

TONG FEMING, the world No. 29 from China, has been banned from table tennis's British League this season for representing the London club Joola Linda Farrow while not registered, writes Richard Lago. Tong, the outstanding woman player in the league in recent seasons, has had her straight-games victories over the Scottish international Ian Stokes, the Irish international Jonathan Cowan and the former Scottish international Richard Yule deleted from the record of the match against Drumchapel Glasgow and the Scottish club has been awarded a 7-8 win.

Perelini signs new Saints deal

APOLLO PERELINI, who emerged as one of the most impressive props in the business during rugby league's first Super League season, has signed a new four-year deal with St Helens with two years of his current contract to run, writes Paul Fitzpatrick. The deal could help tie the 27-year-old to Saints for the rest of his career.

Another St Helens forward, Adam Fogarty, also 27, may be on the move soon, possibly to Wigan. He is out of contract at the end of the year, and Bedford and Saracens rugby union clubs are reported to be interested in the former Halifax prop, who has also been a professional boxer and actor.

Mendez on Bath's wanted list

BATH have made an offer to Federico Mendez, the Argentina hooker, who would become the first major overseas signing at the Recreation Ground. England's double-winners have made an indifferent start to the season and face an early exit from the European Cup after last weekend's defeat at Pontypridd. The 29-year-old Mendez, currently playing Currie Cup rugby for Natal, would beef up a front five who have been found wanting this season.

Mendez, who gained notoriety six years ago when as a schoolboy he floored Paul Ackford with a punch in Argentina's defeat by England at Twickenham, has refused to play against the Springboks next month and tour England with the Pumas in December despite being selected in their 36-man squad.

The Tredegar flanker Tony Edwards is in hospital after almost having an ear torn off in a stamping incident in last Saturday's Welsh Third Division match against Merthyr, whose lock Keith Snape was sent off after a flare-up in a game Merthyr won 14-10. Tredegar officials meet tonight to decide whether to take action.

Barrichello joins Stewart

THE former Jordan driver Rubens Barrichello will be confirmed today in Sao Paulo as the second driver for Jackie Stewart's new Formula One team, writes Alan Henry. The 24-year-old Brazilian, who finished eighth in this year's world championship, has signed a three-year deal to drive for Stewart alongside Denmark's Jan Magnussen.

Zimbabwe dig in for draw

ZIMBABWE dug their heels in to force a draw with Pakistan in the opening Test in Sheikhupura yesterday. The tourists, with a first-innings deficit of 178, struggled to 177 for five before Andy Flower and Guy Whittall batted for 204 and 130 minutes, scoring 18 and 32 respectively, to reduce Zimbabwe to 241 for seven.

They were helped by the absence of Westam Akbar in the final session after the pace bowler crashed into an advertising board while chasing a ball and limped off the pitch. Westam was made Man of the Match for his 287 not out on Sunday. The second Test starts in Faisalabad on Thursday.

The Titan Cup one-day match between Australia and India in Bangalore yesterday was stopped for 20 minutes when fans threw plastic bottles on to the pitch in protest at the dismissal of Mohammad Azharuddin, to reduce Australia to 215 for seven, were 43 for three after 16 overs when Azharuddin was adjudged lbw to Jason Gillespie. The hosts nevertheless made 216 for eight to win by two wickets.

Wattana out of the doldrums

JAMES WATTANA reaffirmed his innate class with consecutive centuries of 131 and 130 and reached the last 16 of the Grand Prix in Bournemouth, but was still plagued by the inconsistency that has sent him down the rankings in the past two seasons, writes Clive Everton. The Thai defeated Glasgow's Paul McPhillips 5-2 with breaks that beat John Parrott's 128 as the best of this year's tournament.

American Football

Redskins keep Giants at bay

WASHINGTON Redskins were word perfect as the first-half drama unfolded at RFK Stadium on Sunday, but they got their lines crossed after the interval as the New York Giants rewrote the script.

After going in 28-0 down, the visitors dominated the second half but the Redskins hung on at 31-21 for their sixth victory of the season to remain top of the NFC East.

Whereas the Giants began like the strugglers they are, Washington looked like a team on the up after a long slump and everything clicked for them from the opening drive, which produced the first of three touchdowns by Terry Allen, maintaining the form that gained him 1,000 yards in rushing last year.

The veteran receiver Henry Ellard followed up his spectacular display against the New England Patriots by catching all five passes in the first half for 119 yards, including a splendid 20-yard effort on the left sideline.

To cap it all, a pass from Deion Brown, the Giants quarterback, slipped out of Thomas Lewis's hands straight to Darrell Green, the speedster in the Washington defence. He raced down the right sideline, easily avoiding Brown's desperate lunge, to score a 66-yard touchdown.

Golf

Tiger on the Bear's trail

David Davies on the disqualification that helped brilliant rookie to second US Tour win

THE extraordinary skills and breath-taking good fortune of Tiger Woods brought him his second win as a professional on Sunday, only eight weeks after he gave up his amateur status.

Woods won the \$1.2 million (€760,000) Walt Disney World Classic in Orlando, Florida with an amazing 21 under par, but only after Taylor Smith had equalled that total and then been disqualified.

Smith, a rookie on the tour, had been reported to the committee by his playing partner Lennie Clements, who suspected that Smith's putter was illegal. That happened on the 9th green of the final round; Smith immediately appealed and was allowed to play on while the governing body, the United States Golf Association (USGA), was consulted.

Smith then holed an eight-foot birdie putt on the last hole to get into what he thought would be a play-off with Woods, only to hear of his disqualification. The decision cost him at least \$158,000, the amount of the second prize, and possibly \$216,000, which is what Woods won.

Woods now moves up to 23rd in the money list after only seven tournaments, having made \$734,794, a quite unprecedented achievement, and he will be able to play in this week's US Tour Championship with its \$3 million

winner of two majors, and if Stewart hit every green in regulation then the young Tiger missed only one. His occasionally over-exuberant putting brought three trebles, including one from only 10 feet at the 17th, but only Smith, and he temporarily, could match the winning total.

The start Woods has made to his career is amazing but not quite unprecedented. Although the prodigy has won his two events in an exceedingly short space of time, Jose-Maria Olazabal also won two full European Tour events in his first year as a professional and so did Phil Mickelson in his first full year. The latter American turned professional in June of 1992, having already won a US Tour event as an amateur in 1991; he was second in his third professional start and in 1993 won twice and finished 22nd on the money list.

But to find someone who truly exceeded what Woods has done it is necessary to go back to 1962, the year that Jack Nicklaus turned professional. He had three wins that year, the first of them the US Open, no less, in which he beat Arnold Palmer in a play-off. He finished third on the money list, and in 1963 he won the US Masters and the US PGA among other things. By 1967 he had his first career Grand Slam and he has since acquired two more, a formidable target and one not yet worth thinking about, even for such a talent as Woods.

Ice Hockey

Storm brewing for Berlin

Wic Batchelder

MANCHESTER STORM go into this afternoon's European Hockey League game against the Berlin Capitals at the Nynex Arena in a better frame of mind than for their previous EHL matches. "We have more belief that we can compete a lot more seriously than in the last couple of games and possibly even sneak a result," their coach John Lewis said yesterday.

The Storm lost both those games. In the first, at home to Finland's TPS Turku last month, they went down 6-0; two weeks ago in Sweden they became the first visiting side in six years to score six goals at the home of the Swedish champions Lulea but still lost 10-6.

Since then the Storm have won three of their four Super League games. And on Sunday night they recovered from two down after 10 minutes to beat Nottingham Panthers 6-2 in front of a Superleague record crowd of 10,555 at the Nynex Arena.

"Nottingham are an established team, contenders throughout the Nineties, and we're two-nothing down. We might have folded, but our guys battled so hard in the corners and for 50-50 pucks. We were winning those little battles and that paid off."

Lawless said of a recovery sparked by three goals in the first five minutes of the second period by Hills, Rugles, Eric Calder and Martin Smith after Paul Aley and Derek Laxdal had put the Panthers ahead.

Shawn Byram, Brad Zavisha and Craig Wraight scored three more as the Panthers faded to their second defeat of the weekend; they had lost 6-3 at home to Ayr on Saturday.

Meanwhile Bracknell Bees, 5-1 winners in Sheffield on Saturday, crashed 7-0 at home to Newcastle Cobras on Sunday. The Cobras' most recent signing Justin Duberman scored twice in the victory which took Newcastle to the top of the Superleague, one point ahead of Cardiff, Sheffield and Manchester.

Tennis

Tone down the tantrums, ruling body tells Hingis

THE Women's Tennis Association is to ask Martina Hingis to banish the on-court tantrums marred the Swiss teenager's impressively early impact on the senior game.

In her European indoor semi-final against Anke Huber in Zurich on Saturday she slammed her racket into the court more than half a dozen times and kicked it twice; the umpire Mike Morrissey warned her for racket abuse. On

Sunday in her defeat by Jana Novotna she disrupted calls and once hit the net fiercely with the racket.

The WTA's European operations director Georgina Clark said: "If it keeps on we would be concerned, but I think it's something we can deal with now. We'll be talking to her."

"Sometimes players come up through the ranks not knowing they developed bad habits. We talk to them and explain that they represent and reflect women's tennis."

Hingis dismisses the outbursts as simply self-motivational. "When I throw my racket it helps me concentrate," she said.

Tim Henman, the British No. 1, has risen one place to 25, his highest world ranking, after reaching the Czech Indoor Open semi-finals last week. But Greg Rusedski dropped from 53rd to 56th in the ATP list released yesterday.



Out of order... Smith's putter

Suffering with The Bard of Bridgend, page 13
Hoddle launches anti-racist drive, page 14

Desperate Blackburn woo Beбето, page 14
Life with the Carling crowd, page 15

Sports Guardian

Wednesday October 23 1996
Plans to protect...
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Inside

NATIONAL STADIUM



Design and designer... Sir Norman Foster outside Wembley Stadium with his vision of the future, a modern arena that would be fit for the 21st century PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GOODWIN

FA boost for Wembley bid

Manchester refuses to give up despite losing ground. John Duncan reports

WEMBLEY last night effectively won the battle to house the new national stadium, when the football authorities said they favoured the present site rather than Manchester as the venue for the £200 million, Lottery-funded project.

There was controversy over the decision, however, with claims that the Manchester deal was financially better for the game to the tune of up to £10 million a year. And there are reports that the Wembley deal involves paying the stadium operator — Wembley plc — £5 million a year, the same function is said to be budgeted in the Manchester bid at £500,000.

"It was a requirement of the Sports Council that any

successful bidder should have the long-term support of football, athletics and rugby league," said the FA. "Today the FA and the Football League, as event holders and in consultation with the Premier League, have chosen Wembley as their preferred venue for the national stadium." Athletics and rugby league also backed Wembley yesterday.

But soccer's commitment to Wembley is still not 100 per cent. "Significant issues remain to be resolved to the satisfaction of football before a final submission goes to the Sports Council," said the FA. "Those issues are legal, financial and commercial," added its chief executive Graham Kelly.

The "issues" are believed to revolve particularly around

and a decision will be made in December, but it would be difficult for the Council to ignore the wishes of all the tenants of the new stadium. The FA will stage England internationals and Cup finals and the Football League the Coca-Cola Cup final and divisional play-offs. And the Premier League seeks to invest

"We are potential investors in a national stadium project and we would make that decision in the light of an effective proposal and further clarity about the nature of the project," said a Premier League spokesman.

That statement offers a little hope to Manchester, which yesterday refused to accept the FA's announcement as a defeat. "Definitely not," said Howard Bernstein, its leader, on behalf of the city council.

"At the end of the day we believe the significant and decisive influence is the Sports Council. We are happy to see our proposals discussed and scrutinised and will be submitting our bid as planned."

Formal bids must be received at the Sports Council headquarters by November 6

up to £50 million in the stadium.

However, the final choice is indeed for the Sports Council to make and it says its decision-making process will be unaffected by the FA's announcement. "Our key objective is to ensure that the public gets the benefit

of access to a world-class national stadium," said the Council's chief executive Derek Casey.

"As a distributor of Lottery funds we need to ensure that our objectives and statutory obligations have been met and that the bidder will be eligible for a Lottery award." That hurdle is not straight-

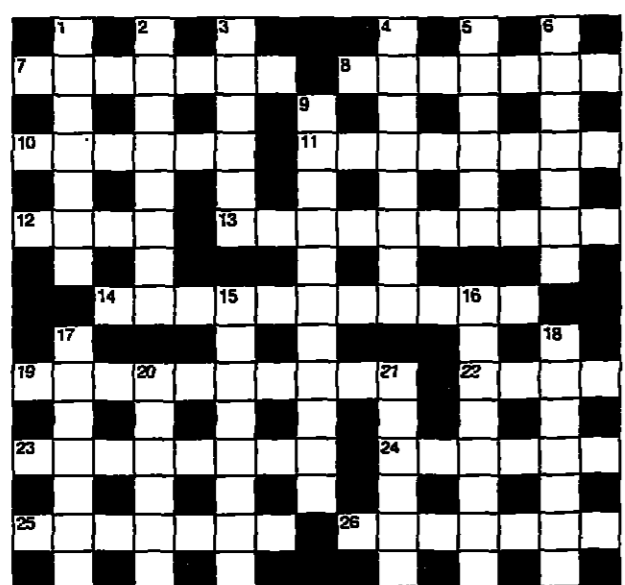
forward for Wembley, which must show that Lottery money will not merely benefit the private company that owns the current stadium, Wembley plc.

Wembley's drawing board is already heaving, however. The architect Sir Norman Foster has been hired to develop plans for a stadium with only the Twin Towers remaining from the Wembley of today.

The towers will be moved brick by brick to allow the pitch to be moved by 90 degrees, which designers say

'Significant issues remain to be resolved to the satisfaction of football before final submission'

Guardian Crossword No 40,790



- Set by Shed
- 19 Original name — Microsoft Sheep? (10)
 - 22 Fish on the same lines (4)
 - 23 Capital drama about love-girl (8)
 - 24 With Reagan interrupting, see the other side at once! (6)
 - 25 East German war criminal embracing the landlady (7)
 - 26 Louis declined in-force (3,4)
- Down**
- 1 Babe the Prophet climbing round the country (7)
 - 2 Firework-trimmer impounding King Lear's leaders (8)
 - 3 Grouse's European parent (6)
 - 4 Wolfram (tungsten) initially affected by parasite (8)
 - 5 Wit's hesitation in time (6)
 - 6 Decapitates fish with one cut (7)
 - 9 Satisfied debts may be open to dispute (11)
 - 15 Ivor's out to become a star player (8)
 - 16 Notice animal sanctuary in Chesterton's old oath (8)
 - 17 One sage receiving order from another (7)
 - 18 Minor sea-god by

- Across**
- 7 Inflated Brit to work over American (7)
 - 8 Look into public transport and working garment (7)
 - 10 Incentive for accountant to be put back on the bishop's books (6)
 - 11 This compiler, perhaps, puts solver into river (8)
 - 12 Breathing apparatus supplying a measure of spirit (4)
 - 13 Backward soldiers surround old Russian city, leaderless (10)
 - 14 Serviceman trapping bird, maybe 17's idol (6,5)

Neptune's foot for the interval (7)

20 Cold little fish eating giant turtle's head (6)

21 Refills with first-class drink (4,2)

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Hoddle ready to drop Gascoigne

David Lacey reports as the FA considers the wayward star's international future

PAUL GASCOIGNE'S England career may well be living on borrowed time. In fact it may have already passed the point of no return, after last week's allegations of wife-beating which coincided with his latest Champions League send-off with Rangers.

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, and Keith Wiseman, the new chairman of the Football Association, discussed him yesterday. On Thursday week Hoddle will announce his squad for the World Cup qualifier in Georgia. It will be surprising if Gascoigne is in it.

David Davies, the FA's director of public affairs, confirmed last night that Hoddle and Wiseman would be meet-

ing again this week. "Glenn will also be having further discussions with Paul and Walter Smith, the Rangers manager," Davies added.

Last Friday Gascoigne apologised for his sending-off against Ajax 48 hours earlier — he had kicked Winston Boragine — but did not comment on reports that he had assaulted his wife, Cheryl, during an argument at the Glengables Hotel the previous Sunday.

Whereas Smith was furious with Gascoigne's red card against Ajax, the FA is more concerned both with the Glengables incident and the heavy drinking that allegedly preceded it.

Shortly before England beat Poland at Wembley 12 days ago, and on the eve of a largely symbolic study of the 25-year-old Gascoigne in a Channel 4 Cutting Edge programme, Hoddle publicly backed the player. "I know what's been said about him, including his drinking," said the England coach, "but I'm not interested in that."

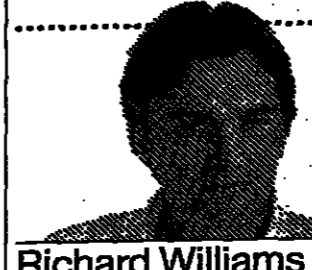
Now Hoddle may have to revise his priorities. The FA's Gascoigne he described as a family man with "a good attitude and a caring quality" who could go on playing until he was 35 has been overtaken by the latest in a series of drink-related incidents.

Just over a month ago, after the admission by Tony Adams, the Arsenal captain, that he was an alcoholic, the FA announced that it was stepping up breath tests on players. To some, retaining Gascoigne in the England squad would be at odds with the fine words spoken then.

Gascoigne, capped 45 times by England, did not play well against the Poles and his stamina remains in question. Even if Sunday lunch at Glengables had passed without incident there would have been a case for not starting him against Georgia in Tbilisi on November 3. His omission could also serve as a final public warning.

What may help persuade Hoddle is the prospect of England's training headquarters at Bisham Abbey being besieged by the media if Gascoigne is still in the squad. If he feels this might upset his other players he will surely decide England need Georgia, not Gezza, on their minds.

At least that would give all parties a three-month breathing space until England play Italy at Wembley in February.



Richard Williams

Kinnear not so crazy after all these years

THIS time last year, when Wembleton were lying third in the Premiership, Joe Kinnear said: "I'm not finished yet." But seven defeats in a row pushed down his throat, and the season ended with the team in a lacklustre 14th place.

Today, riding a wave of seven wins in a row, Wembleton are again in third place. And the decisive urgency of their performance in victory against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Saturday aroused a desire to put money on the possibility that next year the Dons will celebrate their 20th anniversary as a professional football club by representing England in Europe.

Some would say that they began that role on Saturday, when they outfought, outplayed and outscored Chelsea's team of Eurostars with a squad including 13 Englishmen (if you count Vinnie Jones as English, that is).

Back in 1988, the post-Heydel ban denied Wembleton a crack at the Cup Winners' Cup after they had beaten Liverpool at Wembley. But the prospect of the Dons venturing abroad is even more compelling now, since it might provide us with an answer to the question asked whenever English league teams fall in European club competitions after trying to match their opponents for patience and guile: how would we get on if we gave up copying Johnny Foreigner and concentrated on our traditional virtues of speed, strength and simplicity?

The failures have been so frequent that the question is a cliché. Yet no English manager in the post-Heydel era has felt like answering it, thanks to a thoroughly respectable desire to make our football more modern and flexible by improving the skills and tactical awareness of our players. But for all Wembleton's reputation as the bod-carriers of the Premiership, a few minutes of talking tactics with Kinnear could convince anyone that few squads in England are more flexible than his.

Any 10-year-old could see that Kinnear's team beat Chelsea primarily by getting the ball to Marcus Gayle and Efan

Ekoku, their rangy forwards. "We felt that Chelsea's defence liked to push up, which would leave space behind them for us to exploit," he said yesterday. "We wanted to terrorise them with our pace. And we did."

But there were subtler reasons for the victory, providing evidence of the sort of attention to detail which suggests that Kinnear might make an interesting contribution to a European campaign.

On Saturday, for instance, he told Robbie Earle that Roberto di Matteo, his opposite number in midfield, would not be interested in tracking back after him when Earle moved forward. Earle opened the scoring and was praised for his all-round showing against the Italian.

Kinnear also decided that Frank Leboeuf's forays up the middle could be neutralised by encouraging him to pass the ball harmlessly wide. Driven to distraction by Wembleton's forwards, the Frenchman could take no relief in attacking.

Howard Wilkinson's dismissal made Kinnear the second longest serving manager in the Premiership, after Alex Ferguson, and his experience is beginning to show. He does his homework, and spoke of how tactical switches had neutralised Kinkiadze and Juninho last season. "If you give George Weah space," he said, perhaps with his eyes on the future, "he's going to run at you and go past people and probably score. But if you have someone close to him all the time he's going to have to pass the ball."

BUT Kinnear knows there's more than one way to skin a rabbit, and he told me a particularly interesting trick that Wembleton had used a couple of times this season.

"If they've got a player who's not a good passer, you make sure he sees a lot of the ball. You mark every else, so that he becomes their spare man. They keep giving him the ball and he keeps giving it away. Against Derby we put Gayle on Stimac to encourage the other centre-back, Carbon, to come out with the ball, because we felt that his distribution wasn't as devastating as Stimac's. He was launching it straight back to us."

Last year's slump coincided with injuries to half a dozen key players. "We've learnt from that," Kinnear said. "The continuity's good and the confidence has grown." As Liverpool, who have won the European Cup four times, might attest, a confident Wembleton would frighten anyone.

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